

April 2023 ACBL Bulletin Notes

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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. 42-45).
  - a) Problem 4: Korbel saw that his hand wasn't ruffing anything so he correctly chose the better-scoring contract 6NT over 6S. Donn reminds the reader that at matchpoints, notrump should often be considered even when a major suit fit has been found.
  - b) Problem 6: 2NT openers show 20-21 points. Both Easts added a point for the decent five-card suit to get to 20 points.
  - c) Problem 7: *Bridge Bulletin* auction shows how to reach the top scoring 6NT contract despite having a nine-card heart fit. The only loser is the ♥A.
2. "It's Your Call" by Sue Munday and Karen Walker, Deal 1 (p.46). The expert panel is divided on whether partner's double of 4♦ shows shortness or length in diamonds. Donn says it just shows extra values; the others either believes it shows diamonds or denies them. Cohen claims it shows diamonds but realizes that he might not be on the same page as partner and hedges his bets with a 5NT call.
3. "Card Play 101" by Phillip Alder (p. 50), Deal 2. When partner leads the ♦2, it shows a four-card suit (fourth-best leads). Therefore, South has three diamonds. The bidding marks South with five hearts and four clubs, leaving room for only a singleton spade. So, play the ♠A and drop the singleton ♠K.
4. "Parrish the Thought: Second-hand low" by Adam Parrish (p. 51). Parrish describes when – and when not – to play low from the second hand.
5. "Reasoning with Robert: The weak hand's long suit" by Robert S. Todd (p. 52). When you open 1NT with a five-card major, you give partner the chance to have the contract played in his suit. This is important when partner is weak and won't take a trick unless his suit is trump.
6. "Lessons Learned: Don't freeze" by Michael Berkowitz (p.54). If you don't know what partner's bid means, then bid rather than pass. It is less dangerous to bid than to pass a bid you don't understand. DPAUB = Don't Pass Any Unusual Bids.
7. "Bidding Basics: Negative doubles continued" by Larry Cohen (p. 55). Doubles of high level preempts are not for penalty; however, partner will often convert these to penalty when that looks like the best choice.
8. "Challenge of the Month" (p. 56). Use the information from the auction to end-play West instead of hoping against the odds that East has the ♥A.
9. "Mike's Bridge Lesson: A smattering of interesting bidding problems" by Mike Lawrence (p. 58). The following situations are discussed: bidding with six-spades and four-hearts, raising partner with a weak hand and a fit, forcing to game to give yourself bidding space for slam, the meaning of a 1NT rebid opposite a passing partner.
10. "Chalk Talk" by Eddie Kantar (p 59). False-carding (deal 1) and loser-on-loser play (deal 2).
11. "The Real Deal: Victory info defeat" by Larry Cohen (p. 61). An expert player fails to count declarer's tricks and, therefore, fails to defeat the contract.

## Our Favorites

### “Card Play 101” by Phillip Alder (p. 50), Deal 2

		♠ 10 8 6 5 2		
		♥ A 2		
		♦ 9 3		
		♣ A Q 7 6		
♠ J 7 4		N	♠ A Q 9 3	
♥ 10 5 4	W	- +	♥ 9 7 6	E
♦ Q 10 7 2	S	-	♦ A 8 6 5	
♣ J 9 4			♣ 8 3	
		♠ K		
		♥ K Q J 8 3		
		♦ K J 4		
		♣ K 10 5 2		
<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>		<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
				1♥
Pass	1♠		Pass	2♣
Pass	3♣		Pass	3NT
All Pass				

West leads the ♦ 2.

Assuming fourth-best leads, the ♦ 2 shows a four-card diamond suit. West has four, see two in dummy and four in our (East) hand. Therefore, declarer has three diamonds.

Based on the opening lead, the exact layout of declarer's hand is known: five hearts (he opened 1♥ and did not rebid them), four clubs (the second bid), three diamonds (based on the opening lead) and, therefore, one spade.

By rising with the ♦ A cashing the ♠ A, the defense collects four spade tricks and the ♦ A right off the top. It does not matter which spade the declarer holds. Down one.

### “Mike's Bridge Lesson: A smattering of interesting bidding problems” by Mike Lawrence (p. 58)

①	<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
	Pass	1NT	Pass	1♠
				?
	♠ A Q J 8 7 4	♥ A J 9 4	♦ 4 3	♣ Q

#### Hand 1: What is South's second bid?

The choices are 2♥ or 2♠. The correct bid is 2♥. If partner has a singleton spade and 4 or 5 hearts, NS will be in a part score when 4♥ might make. Partner can always correct to spades.

②	<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
		1♣	Pass	Pass
	Dbl	2♦	2♠	?
	♠ 9 8 7 4 3	♥ 4 3	♦ 5 3	♣ K 10 6 3

#### Hand 2: What is South's second call?

Having passed 1♣, South has shown a weak hand.

North has longer clubs than diamonds and is likely to be 6-5, having bid twice opposite a passing partner.

Given South's spades, North has one or a void. And since North has 9-11 cards in the minors, South has few hearts. EW appears to have a double-fit in the majors.

Given the two red doubletons and four cards in North's first suit, South should try 4♣. The Law of Total Tricks suggests that a ten-card trump suit has a very good chance for ten tricks.