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Jeff Kroll

Sam Khayatt

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

- 1. "The Bidding Box" moderated by Josh Donn (p. 38-41).
 - a. Problem 2. The *Bridge Bulletin* auction finds the highest scoring contract of 5 *****. West's stiff spade and diamond weakness are the key to avoiding 3NT.
 - b. Problem 4. The *Bridge Bulletin* auction finds the highest scoring contract of 5 *****. Similar to problem 2, West's red-suit holdings make 3NT a poor contract.
 - Problem 7. The *Bridge Bulletin* auction (and the Bauer & Reitman auction) avoids bidding slam despite East and West both having strong hands. The hands don't fit well. Be conservative with a mismatch.
- 2. "Card Play 101" by Phillip Alder (p. 46).
 - Deal 1. By counting the points around the table, East knows that West has no points.
 The only chance for the setting trick is if East returns a heart that West can ruff with the
 - ♠7. Dummy must overruff, promoting one of East's trumps into a winner.
 - b. Deal 2. Again partner (East, this time) has nothing. West can create the setting trick(s) by forcing declarer to ruff. This time declarer loses control of the hand.
- "Lessons Learned: Saying too much" by Michael Berkowitz (p. 48). Partner opens at the one-level in something other than spades; you hold a 1♠ opener. Even if you are playing 2/1, bid 1♠; do not make a 2/1 bid. Not bidding 1♠ risks missing a 5-3 (or even 5-4) spade fit. Continue with forcing bids until you reach game.
- 4. "Challenge of the Month" (p. 52, 57). Use a ruffing finesse to take two spade tricks, six trump tricks, the ♣A, and a ruff to make your contract.
- 5. "Better Bridge with Bergen: Improve your bidding judgement part 34" by Marty Bergen (p. 59). When partner opens 1♣, a 1NT response should show 8-10 HCP and a willingness to play a notrump contract from responder's side. When this is not the case, respond 1♦ even with only a three-card diamond suit.
- 6. "Test Your Play" by Eddie Kantar (p. 61, 63). Keep the dangerous hand, East, from leading through your ♠K.
- 7. "Dear Billy" by Billy Miller (p. 69)
 - a. Question 1. When partner bypasses clubs to cue bid a diamond control, he is denying a club control. If major-suit controls have been bid and you have a club control, bid aggressively.
 - b. Question 2. A support double is not on when partner responds with a 2 over 1 response in a new suit.

Our Favorites

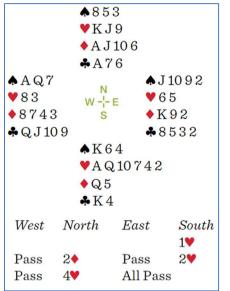
"The Bidding Box" moderated by Josh Donn (p. 38-41), Problem 7

Problem 7	
South deals. Both vulnerable.	
West	East
▲ —	∧ A K J 9 8 5 4
V K J 9 6 4	♥A
♦ A 4	♦QJ98
♣ KQJ532	* 8
Bauer	Reitman
1♣	1♠
2♥	3♠
4♥	4♠
Pass	

Opening 1^{*} shows longer clubs than hearts. Bidding hearts twice shows 5+ hearts and, therefore, 6+ clubs.

None of West's bidding is going to get East to do anything but bid spades with that strong seven- card spade suit. After West's 4 bid, East knows the situation and passes this misfit before bidding a slam that's unlikely to make.

Test Your Play" by Eddie Kantar (p. 61, 63), Deal 1



West leads the AQ. As is often the case, the key play is made at trick one.

This hand makes as long as you do not lose two spades and a diamond. Therefore, East is the dangerous hand. You cannot afford to let East lead a spade through your ♠K.

So, let West win the AQ. West cannot hurt you. When you get in win the AK, draw two rounds of trump, ending in dummy, and pitch a diamond on the AA. Then play the A and get rid of the last diamond in your hand.

Next, lead the \blacklozenge J from dummy, taking a ruffing finesse. If East plays low, pitch a spade. If East plays the \blacklozenge K, ruff it.

If West gets in, he cannot hurt you. A spade back gives you the ♠K. A diamond to the ♦T allows you to pitch the spade as you were planning to do. And a club back gives you a ruff and a sluff.

In any case you will pitch a losing spade on the \blacklozenge J or \blacklozenge T. You will lose only a spade, a diamond and a club.