

Editor's Comment

I am just amazed at the enormous amount of interest shown in bridge so far this year!

Not all organised competitions have been that well supported but bridge is definitely alive and well although not everyone is back to face to face events, many still playing Bridge On Line or Real Bridge which they feel is more convenient and many people are just playing either social bridge at home or online. Covid definitely changed many things for many people and it happened worldwide. Face to face evening bridge seems to have gone and this is not only in South Africa but has been noted in other bridge playing countries as well. However daytime bridge is growing although sadly not as many players at the various clubs around the country as there used to be. Just this last Saturday afternoon I spoke to a lady returning after a huge absence (since before Covid) who said how much she had enjoyed actually handling cards, sitting at a table and interacting with the various players there. She said she did not realise how much she had missed the social side of live events. If you are only a bbo player and reading this, please get down to your local club again. It is fun to be part of this, rather than just playing on your computer or laptop against faceless people typing the odd comment here or there. I have said many times there is a need for online bridge to co-exist with face to face. Our players are not as flush with money as in previous years, many retired and on fixed incomes which have not kept up with inflation rates, so travelling to other parts of the country is now not as possible as it was say 10 - 15 years ago hence many Open events will be played online to acquire a decent entry. Also we are an ageing community so many of our older stalwarts are unable to travel now. We need to attract more players to the game, but younger people are more involved in busier lifestyles it seems than in previous decades. It is something all areas need to work on. There are no easy solutions.

However people are talking about bridge and wanting to improve their game. This is great! The Links started a Supervised Bridge Session on a Thursday morning which has just gone from strength to strength! 30 tables at the last session held and almost not enough tutors to attend to everybody. 12 pre-dealt hands to be discussed. This supervised bridge has attracted good club players to come along in the quest to improve their standard of play which I find most refreshing. Not same old, same old, but a desire to learn new things to improve one's personal game. A great initiative! At teatime at both clubs I belong to I see players asking bridge questions e.g. Are you playing Cue Bid Raises, How do you manage slam bidding? A real desire to improve. Let us maintain this interest, encourage others to take up competitive bridge, and grow our member base!

Yours in bridge

Deirdre Ingersent

NORTHERN GAUTENG BRIDGE UNION NEWS

I was wondering how bridge was going in Pretoria and contacted Delene Spencer to find out. She told me since a most unfortunate incident at their club when they had tried returning to face to face play after Covid, they had decided to play duplicate pairs online using the bbo format which has been working well for them. They play on two different evenings. I furthermore heard about Jack Dorfan's excellent hand analyses which are displayed on their website. To access this one go to :

<https://icepeenz.wixsite.com/pta-bridge-club> There are three little dashes at the top which enable you to access many different things about Pretoria Bridge Club. The hand analyses are under **Jacks Corner**.

Really good to hear this news!

Free State you are very quiet! If anyone from there is reading this entry, please could they contact me with news of their activities.

The Links – Thursday Supervised Bridge - Quiz

1. The bidding goes as follows. What do you (West) bid holding each of the following hands

North	East	South	West
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1♣	X	P	?
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- a. ♠532 ♥10872 ♦876 ♣543
- b. ♠A87 ♥K1043 ♦10987 ♣87
- c. ♠1097 ♥AK53 ♦QJ32 ♣52
- d. ♠AQ3 ♥KQJ4 ♦102 ♣Q432
- e. ♠52 ♥Q432 ♦KJ872 ♣J2

Robert Stephens

2. The bidding goes as follows. What do you (West) bid holding each of the following hands

North East South West

1♣ X 1♠ ?

- a. ♠532 ♥10872 ♦876 ♣543
- b. ♠A87 ♥K1043 ♦10987 ♣87
- c. ♠1097 ♥AK53 ♦QJ32 ♣52
- d. ♠AQ3 ♥KQJ4 ♦102 ♣Q432
- e. ♠52 ♥Q432 ♦KJ872 ♣J2

Robert Stephens

Getting to Know Our **SA** Representatives

Duncan Keet

I am better known as Dunx

61 yrs old, I started playing competitively about +-8 yrs ago

Retired, married, no grandchildren

Have a few partners, but always play the same system, or as close as possible to it. I entered the trials to gain experience

I've had a few coaches to help with my development

Represented SA at scrabble in the recent Africa Games in Ghana

Recently I helped to set up a bridge programme in Bonteheuwel at primary schools involving 400 learners

I currently serve o WCBU Exco as Sports Liaison Officer. I mainly deal with DCAS, WP Confederations and CT Sports Council (I am a former secretary of this body)

'Anything is possible'

Terry East

I'm 64

Still working in IT

Married

3 step children and 3 grand children

Started playing with my parents at 15, then competitively at 25

I always play with Jan

Tim Cope has been a long time friend and mentor

Enjoy travel, bush camping, reading, watching sports

Not involved in admin or tutoring

Janice East

I am 78 yrs old, retired and so lucky to be married to the best bridge partner I could possibly imagine. I have 3 children, 4 grandchildren and 2 great daughters. I started playing bridge 41 years ago and was very fortunate to be taught by Alan Simmonds... Tim Cope became a very close friend and he has tutored Terry and I on many occasions. In fact we played with him and Henry Mansell at Congress one year, their kindness & generosity of spirit is much treasured... not forgetting to add I was a nervous wreck!

Other than a short spell in Gauteng when I played with Tas Nestoriedes Terry has been my only bridge partner.

We stopped playing around 20 years ago and only returned to competitive bridge during Covid..... So very glad we did though as it was nice to be welcomed back by many of the bridge players we knew from 40 years ago and a lot of new faces.

We love the Bush and when possible go off in our truck to really quiet, remote places and take in the beauty of nature..... at other times we have managed to get the internet in farout places and had great bridge games on BBO.. what a mix! My other passion is creating.. whether it be a garden, a new home or cooking... just love seeing things emerge from thoughts and ideas

We are looking forward to Argentina so much and have such a nice team mix... I am very thankful .

We would like to wish all our SA representatives the very best of luck in Buenos Aires in their respective events. May you all enjoy the experience! I am sure it will be great to renew acquaintances (our players who have been to such world events before) and make new bridge friends (our first timers).

Ode to Bridge

**I'm giving up bridge - tonight's my last night,
It's Amen to Staymen, I give up the fight.
The insults and muddles are giving me troubles;
I can't sleep at night for remembering doubles.**

**What to bid, what to lead, and which cards have been played?
Did my partner's discard mean she wanted a spade?
So for now it's all over - I'm off to the backwood,
I'm bidding good riddance to Gerber and Blackwood.**

**I can't stand the hassle, I can't stand the pain,
I'm getting those bad cards again and again.
I'm giving up bridge - tonight's a bad night,
Declarer is horrid and nothing's gone right.**

**My partner's quite hopeless but tends to blame me,
When we go down in four and we should be in three.
And I sit there in dread when I hear her say "double",
She does it a lot and it always means trouble.**

**My points are not high, and I'm wondering why,
She keeps on and on bidding right up to the sky;
We're in seven hearts and my nerves are all frayed,
When wonder of wonders - the contract is made!**

**We've got all the tricks, the defenders look grey,
And I have to admit that my partner's okay.
But ... I'm giving up bridge - tonight's my last night,
Farewell to conventions, I give up the fight!**

**So I end with some words that I know to be true,
Bridge is a game, not for me but for you.
So be kind to your partners, and don't mind their cheek,
For it's only a game - oh! and see you next week!**

ONLINE ETIQUETTE

Online bridge was a saviour for many during the early Covid years, thanks to the awesome BBO and similar platforms. Today, many players still prefer the convenience of BBO to face-to-face bridge, although the latter is the way the game is meant to be played.

Not all players adhere to the etiquette rules of online bridge, in particular:

When starting a new round, use the table chat sparingly to greet your opponents, and announce your basic system, which should only cover the real necessities like: Minor suit openings (Short club/better minor), NT range, 2 level openings, and any unusual conventions which may require a prepared defence to play against. Leads and carding methods should also be included. Conventions like Blackwood, Michaels, Hamilton, etc are not necessary.

When alerting, don't just click on alert, but explain immediately, before you bid, and fully. Avoid describing bids by the convention's name, like "Bergen". Players have different agreements to what various conventions mean, so rather give a full explanation of the bid. In the case of Bergen, there are various ways of playing Bergen, so make your explanation something along the lines of "4+Hearts, 7-9", or "3S, 10-12" etc.

One issue which frequently arises is when a player announces a jump raise as "natural". The expectation for this explanation would be to give an agreed strength. E.g. 1C (p) 3C? ... "Clubs" will often be the alert, which is not sufficient, as some pairs play this bid as weak, and others as invitational. The best explanation would be to give a range of expected HCP's, like "3-7", or "10-12".

If you're unsure whether a bid requires an alert & explanation, play it safe and explain in as much detail as possible.

Avoid giving ANY explanations to the table chat, even if an opponent has requested information on the table chat. This is unauthorized information. Simply click on your bid which requires an explanation (or further details), and then click on "explain", and type in the explanation box which appears above the bid. This keeps all explanations within the bidding box, where only the opponents can see it.

One last courtesy is to fill out your BBO profile as far as possible, with details like your name and country. There is even place under "Other" to perhaps give your general area of residence, like "Cape Town" or "JHB". Although we generally won't know a lot of players personally, it's still nice to be able to greet them each round by name and know where about they may be from.

To edit your profile, log into BBO, then click on the "Account" tab, and then on "Profile". Make the necessary changes and remember to click the "Save changes" button.

••• JOHANNESBURG NEWS •••

With the advent of Covid, good and bad things happened affecting the bridge world, in Johannesburg. We as a Bridge club have had to opportunity to change and learn.

Sadly Orchards Bridge club had to close its doors, with that, we were able to offer our players online bridge on a Saturday afternoon on the BBO platform with the ongoing help of Rob Stephens.

We were also able to learn something new and we were able to offer our NBC (Northern Bridge Club) bridge players RealBridge on a Tuesday and Friday, with Lorna Speller and Debbie Gibbs help and dedication.

Both BBO Orchards and Realbridge run during Covid and are still available for who ever wishes to play this lovely game on line.

Let us be honest , computer bridge has it place in our bridge lives, however to be really honest F2F bridge is the best.

NBC F2F, bridge club reopened its doors at Ferndale Bowling club on Wednesday 9th February 2022.

Since then we have had another move, and we are now back at our old venue Blaigowrie Community Center.

On Wednesday mornings , having started with 7 tables we are slowly growing and have now reached 15-17 tables and our best has been 22.

We have been able to celebrate Gill Brown's Bridge life by having the Gill Brown Memorial Day competition that was held in January 2024. This years Gill Brown day will be held on Sunday 29 September a Red point all day event at Blaigowrie Community Center and for this even we have been able to secure 1.618 Financial Services sponsorship .

We would like to invite all bridge players to visit our website Bridge@Orchards where all relevan Bridge information is available.

Keep playing and learning

Betty Ravenscroft

THE BRIDGE LOUNGE

by Jeff Sapire

In suit contracts, trump control is a vital part of good declarer play. On some hands, even a long, strong trump suit sometimes needs to be carefully handled, especially when there is a lot of outside work.

When North tabled the dummy in today's hand, he felt a little uneasy about the trump support, but he had no idea how important his little two of trumps was. His partner, sad to say, did not appreciate its real value.

West dealer, both Vul

NORTH		EAST	
♠	876432	♠	J105
♥	2	♥	86
♦	QJ92	♦	A76
♣	84	♣	10953
WEST		SOUTH	
♠	A9	♠	KQ
♥	10974	♥	AKQJ53
♦	83	♦	K1054
♣	AKJ72	♣	6

West	North	East	South
1 ♣	P	2♣	4 ♥
All pass			Opening lead: CK

Bidding: After East had raised clubs, South's options were either to double, or take a shot at the heart game. With slam most unlikely against the opposition bidding, he chose the practical route of bidding the long, solid hearts; the less you tell your opponents on these hands, the better.

The defence led and continued clubs, which declarer had to ruff, as there were three losers off the top. He now started drawing trumps, but with the 4-2 split he found himself with only one trump remaining. He now played on diamonds, but east won and continued clubs, forcing out his last trump. With only nine tricks (six hearts and three diamonds), declarer cashed the winning diamonds and played the king of spades, but West kept the ace of spades and a club at the end, getting the last two tricks, for one down.

Declarer should have left that precious little two of hearts in the dummy a bit longer, while he established a spade trick. At trick three, the correct line is a high spade. If it holds, declarer draws trumps and plays on diamonds – making six trumps, three diamonds and a spade. If West takes the ace of spades, there is no danger. He can lead a third round of clubs, but dummy's tiny two of trumps can take the ruff, leaving declarer's trumps intact. And if West leads anything else, declarer wins, draws trumps, and then plays on diamonds, as before.

SUPPORT DOUBLES POLL

A support double is a relatively recent development in bridge bidding theory where the opener is able to differentiate between 3 and 4 card support for responder's suit by doubling when the 4th hand interferes. The situations where players can make a support double occur frequently making it important for partnerships to have clear agreements of when it applies and how to develop the auction following a support double.

There are some contentious issues, and I therefore polled our 2024 South African representatives for the upcoming World Bridge games in Buenos Aires on what their preferred methods were. 18 players were sent the poll and I received responses from 5/6 of the Open team, 3/6 of the Women's team and 1/6 of the Mixed team, giving an overall response rate of 50%. A big thank you to those players, Alon Apteker, Craig Gower, Robertt Stephens, Noah Apteker, Neville Eber, Val Bloom, Sharon Izerel, Diana Balkin and Larry Chemaly, who gave up their time to clarify some of the issues surrounding this popular convention.

1. On which of the following hands would you make a support double as North if the bidding goes

North	East	South	West
1♣	P	1♥	1♠
?			

A. ♠QJ8♥A102♦KQ2♣10982

B. ♠AJ82♥AQ3♦A2♣KJ102

C. ♠3♥1093♦Q42♣AKQ1032

D. ♠A♥K93♦Q42♣AKQ1032

The first poll questions examine whether players believe that a support double should be made regardless of the general strength and nature of the hand.

There was an almost unanimous vote for making a support double with all the above hands. Two panelists from the open team said they would not make a support double with hand C. Interestingly, all panelists unreservedly voted for support double with hand D. One panelist voted for making a support double with hand B, but suggested that bidding 2NT could work out better, if there was further competition from opponents.

Conclusion: There is a very strong case for playing support doubles as compulsory if you have 3 card support. Please remember if you adopt this principle, you must alert the double showing 3 card support, a simple raise promising 4 card support AND pass or any other bid denying 3 card support. As a cautionary note one panelist quoted Eric Rodwell who said 'the one time the support double is not mandatory is if one has opened super light'.

2. Playing support doubles, what bid do you (South) make on the following auction?

North	East	South	West
1♣	P	1♥	1♠
D	P	?	

- A. ♠1043♥A1032♦K842♣82
- B. ♠104♥A10432♦KQ84♣Q2
- C. ♠10♥A1043♦KQ843♣1032
- D. ♠J2♥AK43♦K109843♣2
- E. ♠K2♥AK43♦K1098♣J32
- F. ♠52♥AK43♦98♣KJ1032

Question 2 of the poll interrogates how to develop the auction after partner has made a support double.

I was a little surprised to see that 5/9 panelists voted to bid 2H with hand A and 4/9 voted for 1NT. My personal view is that responder should preferably bid 1NT if he has a balanced hand with only 4 hearts regardless of whether the hand has a stopper in opponent's suit. The reason for this is that there is a big advantage for partner to know that you have a 5-card suit when repeating the suit and it will avoid you getting to a silly 2 level suit contract with very poor trumps. If partner is making a support double with minimum balanced hands, it is important for the partnership to be able to land in 1NT. Obviously if the bidding is at a higher level and 1NT is not available, the responder may have to repeat a 4-card suit.

All panelists were in agreement that the only game try that one can make after hearing a support double is 3 of responder's suit (hand B). Bid of a new suit by responder is non-forcing suggesting a 5-card suit and denying 5 cards in responder's suit (hand C). Jumps in a new suit or opener's show invitational hands with only 4 cards in responder's suit (hands D and F). Cue bid of the overcaller's suit is game forcing (hand E) and was the choice of 1 panelist with the remaining panelists voting for 3NT.

3. On which of the following auctions would you consider a double to be a support double? If it is not a support double, please indicate what double or redouble would mean.

A.	North	East	South	West
	1♣	P	1♥	1NT (natural)
	D			

B.	North	East	South	West
	1♣	P	1♥	2♠
	D			

C.	North	East	South	West
	1♣	P	1♥	1NT (showing the other 2 suits)
	D			

D. North	East	South	West
1♣	P	1♥	D
RD			

E. North	East	South	West
1♣	1♠	D	2♦
D			

F. North	East	South	West
1♣	1♥	D (4♠)	2♦
D			

G. North	East	South	West
1♣	1♥	1♠ (5+♠)	2♦
D			

Question 3 of the poll examines some controversial issues regarding support doubles.

Auction A: asks whether to play support doubles when opponents overcall a natural 1NT. 6/9 panelist said 'no' and would play the double as penalties and 3 panelists voted 'yes'. I believe that this is a dangerous situation to play support doubles. If both hands are balanced and partner only has a 4-card suit, the partnership may have no landing spot. A penalty double is more likely to be lucrative.

Auction B: asks whether support doubles are on after opponents have bid beyond the 2 level in the agreed suit. I was surprised that 3/9 panelists voted to play support doubles in this situation. This is not safe unless the double promises significant extra values as the partnership is forced to the 3 level. The remaining panelists all suggested that double should show extra values, but does not promise 3 card support for partner's suit.

Auction C: asks if support doubles apply when opponents show 2 suits. 6/9 panelists said 'yes'. One said 'no' and that double should be penalty orientated and 2 panelists were unsure. My view is that this is a good time to play support doubles as the bidding is likely to become competitive making it important to establish the extent of your support.

Auction D: There was universal support for playing support redoubles after an opponent makes a takeout double.

Auction E: Do support doubles apply after a negative double showing 4+ cards in the other major? The panel was split on this issue. My view is that support doubles should not apply here as partner will only have 5 or more cards when he has a very weak hand (< 10 HCP).

Auction F: Do support doubles apply when partner has shown specifically only 4 cards in a suit (spades). To my surprise, 5 panelists said 'yes'. This does not make sense to me. Why force the partnership into an auction where we do not have a fit? We know that we do not have an adequate trump fit and playing in spades will only be feasible, if partner has a very good suit. Seems better to just pass and see if partner can take any further action. I suggest that double should show extra values in this situation.

Hand G: Do support doubles apply when partner has shown a 5 card or longer suit (spades). Only 2 panelists said 'no'. I think it is very important to distinguish between 3 and 4 card support in this situation. The 4th trump is usually worth $\frac{1}{2}$ to 1 extra trick for the partnership.

Conclusion:

Support doubles occur commonly and is a valuable tool to have in competitive auctions. Serious partnerships need to discuss exactly when it applies and hopefully this poll can act as a framework for them.

Bernard Donde

Playing Tournament Bridge in Greece May 2024

During the WBF Womens Online Team event I made contact with the captain of a team entered from the island of Rhodes in Greece, as I was intending to visit the island during the month of May.

She entered me into the teams and pairs of the Regional Congress for the Eastern part of Greece which includes all the Greek Aegean islands. In order to play, I was required to pay the annual subs 50 euros to the Hellenic Bridge Federation EOM (there is no B sound in Greek so to translate 'bridge' to Greek you need to put an M next to a P to make the B sound) I actually met the President of the EOM and he told me that there are around 5000 members.

During work days, there are only night sessions which start at 9pm in summer and 8pm in winter. Weekend sessions start at 11am and end around 8pm. These times ofcourse suit the lifestyles of the Greek people. The fee for 6 sessions was 65 euros, played Thursday and Friday nights and 2 sessions each on Saturday and Sunday. After the weekend sessions, they all go out for dinner and post mortems. All tournaments organised by the EOM or clubs are face to face. Online bridge is only available on BBO.

All players in Greece start their bridge careers by joining the governing body and taking a set of lessons after which they are graded. The categories are levels 1 to 16. New students apply to the EOM to learn and the EOM has designated teachers all around the country. Lessons are free but the students pay to purchase the 5 books of Audrey Grant. Once they have completed the 5 books, they attend a contest in Athens and are then placed into categories. To rise in categories you earn masterpoints every time you play. Lessons start in October of every year and students are given 8 or 9 months to get through the 5 books.

The tournaments are run in these graded sections, 1 to 6, 1 to 9 and Open. If you are a 7 you cannot play in the 1 to 6 group etc. Students are graded levels 1 to 4. They had to grade me based on my SABF record and I was graded a 13 which meant the 2 partners I had were forced to play in the Open! The venue was the Rodos Palace Hotel where SA has played once many years ago.

As play starts, the TD's demand silence and nobody may speak during play unless there is an alert. Alerting and Announcing are very rare – most players playing much the same system.

Duplicate Pairs events are simultaneous all over Greece and the results are available on line as soon as the last club finishes. The playing fee is 4-8 euros depending on club facilities.

It is possible to play every weekend in a different area all over the country. Each association organises Friday eve to Sunday afternoon events with generous reduced hotel rates, guided tours, maybe some meals, prizes etc. The most prestigious event in Greece takes place in October in Athens where each region/club sends its best teams.

Sponsors are a huge part of the game in Greece and special sub committees of the EOM only do that one job. In fact all the different areas of bridge administration are handled by specialist sub committees. One thing I did not manage to investigate was whether they have a SAWBA equivalent or not. On my next visit.....

Tas Nestoridis

DARLING DAISY'S TIPS FOR BEGINNERS!

These are all basic tips this time . . . But I rather think even average club standard players could benefit from giving them a quick read!

1. STAY LOW ON A MISFIT

On many hands the trick-taking potential depends upon having a trump fit. When you have no eight card fit anywhere, you often can't make very much. If you have K Q J x x in one suit and K Q x x x in another, at first sight it looks good. However if partner has similar holdings in the other two suits, you may not take many tricks. Indeed on a misfit deal, you may find that you make even fewer tricks than you would if you had two balanced hands as you will have difficulty crossing from one hand to the other.

EXAMPLE No 1

♠ 9 4 3
♥ 2
♦ K 6 5
♣ K J 8 5 4 2

Partner opens ! Heart and rebids 2 Diamonds over your 1NT response. It is in your best interest to stay low on the misfit and pass.

EXAMPLE No 2

♠ Void!
♥ A K 8 2
♦ K 6 5 3
♣ K J 8 5 4

Partner opens a weak 2 Spades showing 6 spades and 5 - 10 points. So this is only 6 spades between you and you need to pass despite your opening hand. Any action taken by you would take the bidding higher with no assurance of finding a fit.

2. PRE-EMPT TO SILENCE THEM!

We all recognise the value in a pre-emptive bid as being obstructive so when you have a weak hand and either a very long suit of your own or a good fit for your partner's suit you should bid to the limit straight away. Even if you go down, you will probably stop the opponents from getting a good score.

EXAMPLE No 1

♠ A Q J 8 7 5 2
♥ 4
♦ 8 4
♣ 7 5 2

You should open 3 Spades (you have 7 cards in the suit)



EXAMPLE No 2

♠ 5
♥ 4
♦ 8 4 2
♣ A K J 9 8 7 5 2

You should open 4 Clubs (you have 8 cards in the suit)

EXAMPLE No 3

♠ 5
♥ Q 10 7 4 2
♦ 8 4
♣ K J 9 8 7

If partner overcalls in Hearts you should jump immediately to 4 Hearts. This pre-empting forces the opponents to bid, if they want to, at a high level and SOMETIMES they will guess wrong. Hey this doesn't always work, but always is a word which cannot be applied to bridge advice I think!

3. PLAY LOW IN THE SECOND SEAT

This is a rule for both sides, declarers and defenders.

DECLARER first!

Example 1

Spades J 5
Spades Q 9 6 4 2 Spades K 8 7
Spades A 10 3

If West leads the 4 (a low card away from an honour), you ensure two tricks which will be a double stopper if you play low from dummy.

Example 2

Spades K 5
Spades Q 9 6 4 2 Spades 10 8 7
Spades A J 3

Again West leads the 4. This time by playing low from dummy you will get three spade tricks.

Example 3

Spades A J 5
Spades J 9 6 4 2 Spades K 10 8
Spades Q3



Again West leads the 4. Playing Dummy's Ace means the Queen never makes. However if you let the lead run to your hand you ensure two spade tricks. The opponents K makes but you have your Q for the next time that suit is played and Ace for later on. So to sum up, playing low in second seat is usually right if you have strength in the fourth seat.

DEFENDER now!

Perhaps a bit trickier as a defender cannot be sure what partner holds. However the same principle applies, playing second hand low is usually right.

Example 1

	H hearts K 7 2	
H hearts A 10 8 3		H hearts J 9 6
	H hearts Q 5 4	

If South leads low with the 4 and West immediately goes up with the Ace, the King and Queen will both score. West should play second hand low to save the ace for capturing the Queen.

Example 2

	H hearts J 7 2	
H hearts K 10 8 3		H hearts A 9 6
	H hearts Q 5 4	

If South leads the 4 again and West goes straight up with the King, the Queen and Jack become equals for driving out the Ace in the East hand.

Example 3

	H hearts A 9 2	
H hearts J 8 3		H hearts Q 7 6 5
	H hearts K 10 4	

If South leads low and West plays the J to force out the Ace, declarer can finesse the 10 on the way back. There is no need to play high on such lay outs. Partner's presumed high cards will stop declarer from making a cheap trick. It is well worth thinking about where the cards lie before playing!

Deirdre Ingersent



Question 1 - Answers

- a. Bid 1♥. You have been asked a question and must answer it even though you have no high card points (HCP). 1♥ shows your best suit and 0-8 HCP.
- b. Bid 1♥. We have 7 HCP and so are upper range for a 1♥ bid showing 0-8 HCP.
- c. Bid 2♥. The jump bid shows 9-11 HCP. It is crucial to be able to distinguish hands a and b from hand c.
- d. Bid 2♣. This is a cue bid and promises at least an opening hand. Partner is therefore not permitted to pass below game. (An opening hand opposite an opening hand means we must get to game). After 2♣, partner will bid his suits up the line, and we will find our fit. If no fit we might be able to play in 3NT.
- e. Bid 1♥. Tend to bid Major suits before minor suits especially if you have a few HCP's. 1♥ shows 0-8 HCP.

Note that when you respond to a takeout double, a simple bid shows 0-8, a jump shows 9-11 and cue bid shows 12+ so all the possible ranges are accounted for.

Question 2 - Answers

Note that the hands are the same as in question 1 however now South has bid 1♠.

- a. Pass. Once South bids, you are relieved of your obligation to bid and should just pass.
- b. Bid 2♥. This still shows a maximum of 8 HCP's. You bid because you have a few points and would like to compete. When partner doubles, I like to think that he has bid the other 3 suits. Had your partner opened 1H, you would not hesitate to raise him to 2H with 7 HCP
- c. Bid 3♥. You must still jump to show 9-11 HCP. Even though 2♥ would be a 'free' bid, it still shows a maximum of 8 HCP.
- d. Bid 2♣. Again, you must tell partner that you have an opening hand and you want to be in game.
- e. Bid 2♥. See answer to b above but tend to bid majors before minors. (depending on partnership agreements, dbl can also be used as a t/o for the unbid suits)

Note that when the third hand bids, a simple bid shows 5-8, a jump still shows 9-11 and cue still shows 12+. We no longer need to bid with 0-4 HCP.

Robert Stephens

Tas Nestoridis is an experienced SA player who unfortunately was unable to take part in the SA Trials for Buenos Aires so could not be selected for this event.