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# BRIDGE TODAY



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Editor: Matthew Granovetter

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*The Magazine for People Who Love to Play Bridge*

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## The Red Pencil

by Matthew Granovetter

~~transfer advances~~

This month we are going to put a red pencil through a relatively new convention on the market place: Transfer advances. This wonderful convention is typical of today's modern 2-way ideas, combining two bids into the price of one, so that you can get more mileage from your bids. Slow down!

The transfer advance occurs after a major suit is doubled for takeout. Responder bids 1NT or higher to say: I have something interesting in the next suit — it's either a long suit or a lead-director with support for your suit, partner.

Here's an outline:

West	North	East	South
—	—	1 ♠	double
?			

- 1 NT = long club suit or lead director in clubs with spade support
- 2 ♣ = long diamond suit or lead director in diamonds with spade support
- 2 ♦ = long hearts or lead director in hearts with spade support
- 2 ♥ = a good raise to 2♠
- 2 ♠ = a bad raise to 2♠

At the Nationals in Chicago last month I decided to try this out. My first experience with them was this, where I was East:

West	North	East	South
—	—	1 ♠	double
1 NT	4 ♥	?	

You don't have to know my hand to know how frustrated I was. I didn't know which hand my partner held, so how could I make an intelligent call?

OK, this was my hand:

♠ A Q 10 7 5 ♥ 8 ♦ Q J 10 9 4 ♣ A 3

If my partner had only clubs, I would want to defend 4♥. But if my partner had spade support, I wanted to bid 4♠.

There are a number of other nightmares I could have held, such as:

♠ A 8 7 6 5 ♥ 7 ♦ A J 3 ♣ K 7 5 2

If my partner holds clubs, I want to bid 5♣, but if it was a club lead director and spade support, I want to defend.

♠ A Q 8 4 3 ♥ Q J 4 ♦ A 4 3 ♣ A 2

Do I pass, double or bid 4♠? It would have been so nice to know if partner held spade support, because then I could double and he would know that I know he has spade support. If I double now, and he has spade support, does he remove to 4♠? He has no idea either.

Take this convention and put a red pencil through it, please. Forget the lead director, or play that a jump is fit-showing and a lead director. But these two-way birds — I mean, bids — are for the ... well for the birds.



## Matchpoint Lessons from Verona

by Pamela Granovetter

— from the World Women's Pairs —

Before Verona, my world championship experience (which had been on hold for about 20 years) consisted of two Rosenblum Cups, one women's team game, and one mixed pairs. The Verona women's pairs was my first try at that particular strain. My partner, Migry Zur Campanile, and I finished third in the semi-finals, but our effort in the finals was nothing to write home about. To compensate, there were many lesson hands (ours or our opponents') from that event (which I share with you below). I found the other women in the event to be extremely pleasant and talented, and, best of all, I had a chance to visit with many old friends. I wouldn't have minded better lighting and air conditioning at the playing site, but the venue wasn't too bad and, happily, freshly-brewed coffee was provided free of charge during every session.

I loved Italy itself as well as the Italian people. The staff at our small but pretty hotel were incredibly pleasant and helpful, and our rooms (we had a little apartment), the lobby area, and the hotel's garden were as comfortable as one could wish. For icing on the cake, Matthew and I got to know some of our hotel's fellow-guests better — in particular, Lew and JoAnna Stansby, Ron and Suzie Klinger, and Jill and Bobby Levin. Interestingly, Matthew (playing with Karen McCallum) was first in the mixed

pairs, the Levin's were second, and the Stansby's were third — our hotel apparently was a lucky place! (JoAnna and Jill also won silver medals for the women's teams event, and Bobby won silver for the Open with Stevie Weinstein, also at our hotel.)

By the time I reached the women's pairs (which was the last) event, I (who am not much of a matchpoint maven) knew all too well about the agony of defeat at matchpoints from my game with Bob Hamman in the mixed pairs — such angst we had experienced by going +400 instead of +420, +420 instead of +430, +110 instead of +120, or +100 instead of +110! When playing matchpoints, how can you tell whether to play in a 5-3 major-suit fit or notrump? Whether to defend with a good chance to defeat them, or bid one more, knowing you will probably fail in your contract for a good matchpoint score anyway at 50-a-trick? There is so much guessing and luck involved, is there not?!

And yet, upon reflection, I think some of the decisions and plays we made or failed to make in the women's pairs would be tough problems atimps or rubber bridge as well, and so, in the end, I think that much of this set of lesson hands can be defined as "bridge" problems rather than "matchpoint" problems — you be the judge!

Problem #1

East dealer • North-South vul

You, East, hold:

♠ A K Q 7 6 5  
 ♥ J 7  
 ♦ J 7  
 ♣ Q 7 3

West	North	East	South
—	—	1 ♠	pass
1 NT*	pass	?	

\*semi-forcing (up to 11 points)

Problem #3

North dealer  
 None vul

North

♠ 10 9 4 2  
 ♥ A K 7 4 3  
 ♦ 7 6 4  
 ♣ 4

South (you)

♠ A K J 8 6  
 ♥ Q 6  
 ♦ K 2  
 ♣ J 6 3 2

West	North	East	South
—	pass	pass	1 ♠
pass	2 ♣*	pass	4 ♠

(all pass)

\* Drury

Opening lead: ♥J

Plan the play.

Problem #2

West dealer • All vul

You, North, hold:

♠ A K J 10 8 7 6  
 ♥ J 5  
 ♦ 5 4 3 2  
 ♣ —

West	North	East	South
—	?		

What is your opening bid?

---

Problem #4

South dealer  
 N-S vul

North (dummy)

♠ J 6 5  
 ♥ 9  
 ♦ 8 7 6  
 ♣ Q J 7 6 4 3

West (you)

♠ A K Q 10 7  
 ♥ 4  
 ♦ 10 5  
 ♣ A K 9 8 2



South	West	North	East
1 ♥	2 ♥*	pass	3 ♠
4 ♥	4 ♠	pass	pass
5 ♦	pass	pass	double

(all pass)

\* spades and clubs

Opening lead: ♣K

Partner follows with the 10 and declarer ruffs. Declarer continues with the ♥A (partner playing the 8) and a heart. You ruff in with the ♦10. Declarer throws a club from dummy and partner follows with the ♥10. You cash a high spade. Now what?

Problem #5

West dealer      North (dummy)  
 E-W vul      ♠ 6 5  
                  ♥ 10 8 5 4 2  
                  ♦ 9 5 3  
                  ♣ A 10 9

♦ A

South (you)  
 ♠ A Q J 10 4 3  
 ♥ K 7 6  
 ♦ Q 10 2  
 ♣ K

West	North	East	South
1 ♣	pass	2 ♣	2 ♠
(all pass)			

Opening lead: ♦ A

East follows low but you cannily follow with the ten. West continues with the king and another diamond, setting up your queen for you. Well done! What next?

Problem #6

South dealer  
 East-West vul

You, West, hold:

♠ 10  
 ♥ Q 8 5 4 2  
 ♦ A Q 6  
 ♣ A Q J 9

South	West	North	East
2 ♦*	2 ♥	pass	pass
2 ♠	double	(all pass)	

\* Multi (one major)

Your lead.

Problem #7

South dealer  
 None vul

You hold as East:

♠ 8 6 3  
 ♥ J 10 7 5  
 ♦ A Q 10 6 5  
 ♣ K

South	West	North	East
2 ♠*	3 ♣	3 ♠	?

\*spades and a minor

What do you make of the East hand after they open 2♠, showing spades and a minor, partner overcalls 3♣, and third hand raises to 3♠?

Note: Double here would show "cards" outside of spades.

Solutions

Problem #1

East dealer	North		
N-S vul	♠ 8 4 3		
	♥ 10 9 2		
	♦ A Q 6 5 4		
	♣ A K		
West		East	
♠ 2		♠ A K Q 7 6 5	
♥ A K 8 6 5		♥ J 7	
♦ 10 9 8 2		♦ J 7	
♣ J 9 4		♣ Q 7 3	
	South		
	♠ J 10 9		
	♥ Q 4 3		
	♦ K 3		
	♣ 10 8 6 5 2		

West	North	East	South
—	—	1 ♠	pass
1 NT*	pass	2 ♠	(all pass)

\*semi-forcing

Opening lead: ♣5  
 East-West result: -50

I think that at any form of the game, it could work to pass 1NT. You have “quacks” in every suit, and if partner holds a doubleton spade, you are in great shape. I think that atimps, it’s 50-50, but at matchpoints it’s a good gamble to pass 1NT. That would have been a big winner here, where 1NT probably makes three (assume they lead and clear diamonds), while 2♠ unluckily went down a trick when they took ruffs in both minors. I don’t think the 2♠ bid can be criticized, but it seems to me that in my younger, free-spirited days, I used to routinely look to play hands with long running suits in notrump. Is the 2♠ rebid a “middle-age thing”?

Problem #2

West dealer	North		
All vul	♠ A K J 10 8 7 6		
	♥ J 5		
	♦ 5 4 3 2		
	♣ —		
West		East	
♠ Q 5 3 2		♠ 4	
♥ K 7 6 2		♥ A Q 4 3	
♦ K 10		♦ A 8 7 6	
♣ K J 10		♣ 8 7 6 2	
	South		
	♠ 9		
	♥ 10 9 8		
	♦ Q J 9		
	♣ A Q 9 5 4 3		

West	North	East	South
—	4 ♠	(all pass)	

Opening lead: ♥A  
 Result: North-South -300

Is this just “a toss of the dice” hand, or is there some sort of matchpoint discipline in play here? Does your “level of opening bid” choice depend on what game you’re playing? I’m a big fan of “picture bids” and a three-level bid here should show a seven-card suit and a hand where you expect to take seven tricks. On the other hand, the “big” 4♠ bid could work by shutting them out of their cold game.

In this case, minus 300 was about average. Some Easts doubled a 3♠ opening bid and some Wests passed out 3♠ doubled (for 200 or 500). The big score was to buy it for 3♠ undoubled and receive a club lead.

Problem #3

North dealer	North		
None vul	♠ 10 9 4 2		
	♥ A K 7 4 3		
	♦ 7 6 4		
	♣ 4		
West		East	
♠ —		♠ Q 7 5 3	
♥ J 10 9 8		♥ 5 2	
♦ A Q J 10 9		♦ 8 5 3	
♣ 10 9 8 5		♣ A K Q 7	
	South (you)		
	♠ A K J 8 6		
	♥ Q 6		
	♦ K 2		
	♣ J 6 3 2		

West	North	East	South
—	pass	pass	1 ♠
pass	2 ♣*	pass	4 ♠
(all pass)			

\* Drury

Opening lead: ♥J

Here we have a case of getting to a thin game at matchpoints. You have to forget about overtricks — you are going to have

to go plus here to score well, so the play of the hand should be the same as playing at imps or rubber bridge. What are the odds of hearts breaking 3-3 so that you can pitch away one or both diamonds? Not good (36%).... Where does this leave us?

The solution is to preserve your hand entries for club ruffs. Win the ♥A in dummy and play a club. If West wins, you are in great shape because she can't attack diamonds and may continue hearts for you. In fact, East wins the club and plays a diamond through. You lose two diamonds, ruff the third, and cash a high spade. You get the news about the spades and ruff a club. Now a heart to hand and ruff another club.

You can play dummy's high heart now, and East has the unhappy choice of letting you discard your last club and then run the ♠10 followed by a heart to coup her, or ruffing the heart, allowing you to overruff, ruff a club, and then coup her.

In real life, declarer, anxious for an overtrick, won the heart in hand with the queen and cashed a high spade. The entries were wasted and the contract could no longer be made.



The other two couples at our hotel, Lew and JoAnna Stansby and Jill and Bobby Levin, receive their bronze and silver medals in Verona for the Mixed Pairs





Problem #5

West dealer	North (dummy)		
E-W vul	♠ 6 5		
	♥ 10 8 5 4 2		
	♦ 9 5 3		
	♣ A 10 9		
West		East	
♠ 8 7 2		♠ K 9	
♥ A 9		♥ Q J 3	
♦ A K 7		♦ J 8 6 4	
♣ J 6 5 3 2		♣ Q 8 7 4	
	South (you)		
	♠ A Q J 10 4 3		
	♥ K 7 6		
	♦ Q 10 2		
	♣ K		

West	North	East	South
1 ♣	pass	2 ♣	2 ♠
(all pass)			

Opening lead: ♦ A

East follows low but you cannily follow with the ten. West continues with the king and another diamond, setting up your queen for you. Well done! What next?

Red herring alert! Again, this is an easy one for *Bridge Today* readers. You play your club (OK, OK, so it's the king!) to the ace and take a spade finesse (isn't that what you'd do if your club was a little one?). After pulling trumps, two low hearts from hand will produce the overtrick. In real life, declarer was clever enough to play the ♦10 at trick one, but after winning the third round of diamonds, she unblocked the ♣K, then played ♠A, ♠Q, and held herself to eight tricks.

By playing the hand as declarer did, you virtually give up on any overtricks (since you are conceding the ♠K even when it's onside doubleton, along with two diamonds and two certain heart tricks). Declarer's play was designed to kill the club suit for the defenders and force them to play hearts to her advantage. However, if they have a spade and/or the 13th diamond for exit cards, and if the ♥A is third, the spade finesse might be right atimps as well. For example, give West ♠ 8 7 2 ♥ A J 3 ♦ A K 7 ♣ J 6 5 3.

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### Switch in Time Forum

Question from California: When there are two three-card suits, either of which could be the obvious shift, a few of us are having a problem determining which to choose.

- ♠ x x x x x
- ♥ x x x
- ♦ x x
- ♣ A x x

Spades are trump and the ♦A is led.  
Is it the club suit or heart suit?

The rule states: Choose a three-card suit with at most one honor. Someone here argues that with equal length suits, you should whittle things down to choosing the weakest suit, which would mean hearts is the 'obvious shift' in this case. I assumed that only applied to lengths longer than three cards. I can't find any deals in your book which hold an example of this three-card dilemma. Can you please clarify this for us as we really want to use this defense. [Answer on page 11.]

Problem #6

South dealer	North		
E-W vul	♠ Q 2		
	♥ K J 7 3		
	♦ 9 7 5 3		
	♣ K 10 2		
West		East	
♠ 10		♠ K 8 6 5	
♥ Q 8 5 4 2		♥ A 9	
♦ A Q 6		♦ 8 4 2	
♣ A Q J 9		♣ 7 5 4 3	
	South		
	♠ A J 9 7 4 3		
	♥ 10 6		
	♦ K J 10		
	♣ 8 6		

South	West	North	East
2♦*	2♥	pass	pass
2♠	double	(all pass)	

\* Multi (one major)

Your lead.

Personally, I don't think West should bid so much at matchpoints (for sure not at imps!) because the heart suit is raggedy and the vulnerability scary. I like to let the vulnerability do the talking for me, so after making a vul-vs-not overcall, I leave it to partner to make an aggressive raise or new-suit bid with any excuse. Nevertheless, all might have been well had West found a club or trump lead.

Shawn Quinn found a club lead on a similar hand when she was my teammate; the ♣K rates to be in dummy and it may be important to get the club tricks going. After winning the second round of clubs, declarer plays a diamond to the jack and queen, and West has to play a low heart right now, before declarer gets a better count of the hand's high-card distribution. Would you have the stomach for it? Would declarer have found the winning guess in hearts?

In real life, West led a heart on opening lead with these cards and that was that. I think the heart lead is wrong because they rate to have six or seven hearts, so hearts is *their* side suit.

Perhaps East should bid 3♣ over the double, although one is generally unhappy to do this with a 7-5-4-3 suit vulnerable. Or, do you think East should have bid 3♥ (not a success on this hand, but perhaps it is nevertheless the right bid...)? A natural 2NT is also possible (if you are fortunate enough to play it that way) and would do pretty well here — down one after a spade lead. At the time, East thought West had a better defensive hand, and was hoping for +100 instead of a minus, or +300 instead of +110 or +140. This is a good sequence to discuss with your regular partner.



Shawn Quinn

Problem #7

South dealer	North		
None vul	♠ A 9 4		
	♥ A Q 9 2		
	♦ 8 7 4		
	♣ J 7 3		
West		East	
♠ Q 5		♠ 8 6 3	
♥ K 8 6 3		♥ J 10 7 5	
♦ —		♦ A Q 10 6 5	
♣ A Q 8 6 5 4 2		♣ K	
	South		
	♠ K J 10 7 2		
	♥ 4		
	♦ K J 9 3 2		
	♣ 10 9		

South	West	North	East
2 ♠	3 ♣	3 ♠	double*
pass	4 ♥	(all pass)	

\* "cards" outside of spades.

What do you make of the East hand after they open 2♠, showing spades and a minor, partner overcalls 3♣, and third hand raises to 3♠?

I think the level is a little too high here for showing your cards without a fit. Open-er obviously has diamonds, so your diamond suit won't produce much for partner. You have no guarantee of a heart fit, and your club support, though very nice for a singleton, is still a bit lacking.

Atimps, it's probably easy enough to pass and if partner has nothing more to say, you hope for a plus score. But at matchpoints, is +50 good enough? I know (all too well) from my game with Hamman that nothing feels worse than going minus 140 or plus only 50 when it was your hand all along, but I don't know how clear it is here that it's your hand (they don't call spades the "boss suit" for nothing). This is a tough one, but the winning call is pass. Did you find it? At the table, East doubled, West bid 4♥ (good! we have a fit!) but that contract finished down two when the hearts didn't split and your diamonds were useless (surprise, surprise).

"Bravo" to anyone who found a pass with these cards, and scored up +50 for a great result!

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Answer to Switch in Time Question (from page 9)

♠ x x x x x	
♥ x x x	Spades are trump and the ♦A is led.
♦ x x	Is the OS the club suit or heart suit?
♣ A x x	

Hearts — three small. We apply the following method for two three-card suits: first, the suit without an honor; if both holdings have one honor, the suit with fewer HCP; if both suits have no honor, the lower-ranking suit.



## Diary of the World Mixed Pairs

by Matthew Granovetter

### Part II — Matchpoints: A Game of Inches

Verona, Italy, June 2006, the World Mixed Pairs

Karen McCallum and I started the first final session, North-South, with board 23. We would play boards 23-to-26 and then one through 22. I sat North, as all the men did.

Our methods should have struck gold on board 23, but didn't. I'll let you try it. You pick up, South, dealer, all vul:

♠ 6 5 ♥ Q 8 6 5 3 ♦ Q 10 9 8 4 ♣ J

South	West	North	East
pass	1 ♣	1 ♥	1 ♠
3 ♦*	pass	4 ♦	5 ♣
5 ♥	pass	pass	5 ♠
(all pass)			

\*fit-showing jump by a passed hand

What is your opening lead?

This was the full hand:

Board 23  
 South dealer  
 All vul  
 North (MG)  
 ♠ 10 7  
 ♥ A K 10 7 4  
 ♦ A J 7 3  
 ♣ 9 5

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

South (KM)  
 ♠ 6 5  
 ♥ Q 8 6 5 3  
 ♦ Q 10 9 8 4  
 ♣ J

If you lead a diamond, you defeat 5♠ for a 94% score. Even the ♥Q lead defeats 5♠, as long as you switch, which you will. My partner led the "normal" ♣J singleton and we went minus 680 for 36%. Karen was very apologetic, and upset with herself as well. This is because it was *her* fit-showing methods we were playing, not mine, but we had failed to capitalize on them. Karen is a very modest player, and it was because of this trait, I think, that we were able to succeed. There's nothing better for matchpoint mo-

rale than for one player to say sorry to the other after a mistake or even a mis-guess. On the very next board, I played in 2♥ making an overtrick for a 72% score, and the fact that we did not have bad words about the prior board certainly helped my concentration for a crucial overtrick.

On board 25 I had a unique bidding problem. This was my hand, dealer, favorable:

♠ J 10 8 6 4 ♥ K 9 8 5 4 ♦ Q 8 5 ♣ —

According to our system card, I was supposed to open 2♠, a McCallum two-bid (4-10 points and a five-card suit with any distribution). I couldn't bring myself to do it. Not with those hearts. So I passed, hoping to show both majors more conveniently on the next round. Partner opened 1NT in third seat, 14-16, and I was in great shape. I would transfer to spades and rebid 3♥. Suddenly, however, RHO doubled. I asked what the double was, since we play system ON if the double is conventional. No luck! The double was penalty and now we do not play system on and not only that, but I had no idea what we do play! Do you have an agreement? (I learned after the session that we do play a method of redoubling to get out with one suit and to show two suits we bid a suit we don't have, hope and pray they don't pass it out, and then redouble or bid a second suit.) I thought now of bidding 2NT, which is certainly unusual after a penalty double, with a follow-up to 3♥, but would partner understand it? No, I finally decided on 2♠, planning next to bid 3♥ if (as I hoped) the doubler would come back with a 3♣ bid. No luck. It went 2♠ all pass, and I was back in the exact same position as if I had opened 2♠!

This was the full deal:

Board 25 North  
 North dealer ♠ J 10 8 6 4  
 E-W vul ♥ K 9 8 5 4  
 ♦ Q 8 5  
 ♣ —

West		East
♠ A K Q 7		♠ 3 2
♥ A 3		♥ 10 7
♦ J 7		♦ 10 9 4 2
♣ K 9 7 3 2		♣ Q J 10 6 4

South  
 ♠ 9 5  
 ♥ Q J 6 2  
 ♦ A K 6 3  
 ♣ A 8 5

West	North	East	South
—	pass	pass	1 NT
double	2 ♠	(all pass)	

I somehow managed to make 2♠ for a 17% score. The field was in 3♥ or 4♥, of course, making. Perhaps a 2♠ opening would have worked after all. If West balances with 2NT, I'll lead a heart and we'll score eight tricks for +300. This would at least be average. Maybe I had better follow the system!

On the next round, I picked up a hand that would normally hold no interest for me, except that we were playing the McCallum two-bids, and suddenly hands like this become very interesting:

♠ K 9 8 4 3 ♥ J 9 8 3 ♦ 6 ♣ Q 8 5

I was dealer, and this time I did not hold back. I opened 2♠, showing 4-10 points and five spades. LHO passed, and when the bidding tray was passed back to me under the screen I saw 3♣ by partner and 3♦ on my right.

♠ K 9 8 4 3 ♥ J 9 8 3 ♦ 6 ♣ Q 8 5

West	North	East	South
—	2 ♠	pass	3 ♣
3 ♦	?		

That 3♣ bid was not forcing, but I did have support plus a singleton diamond. If I had the courage of my convictions, I could bid 3♥ on the way to 4♣, but surely my hand was not good enough for this action. Anyway, I raised to 4♣ and hoped nobody doubled. Good news: East raised to 4♦. It now went all pass, and I led a club:

North dealer ♠ K 9 8 4 3  
None vul ♥ J 9 8 3  
♦ 6  
♣ Q 8 5

♠ A 7 5 2		♠ Q 10 6
♥ A		♥ K 10 7 5
♦ A 10 7 5 4 2		♦ J 9 8 3
♣ 10 4		♣ J 6
	♠ J	
	♥ Q 6 4 2	
	♦ K Q	
	♣ A K 9 7 3 2	

West	North	East	South
—	2 ♠	pass	3 ♣
3 ♦	4 ♣	4 ♦	(all pass)

Opening lead: ♣ 5

Karen cashed two club tricks and switched to the ♠J. We finished with four tricks, down one, and 67%. After the opponents left, Karen told me that I dare not raise to 4♣ with such a dog of a McCallum, since her 3♣ bid could simply be an escape from a 2♠ contract. But I did not think it was so bad. In fact, we lose only four tricks in 4♣, and -110 in 3♦ would have been an awful result.

On the next round our female opponent

hit the bull's-eye. She held, vul vs. not:

♠ 10 8 5 3 ♥ K Q 4 2 ♦ K Q 9 ♣ K Q

It went 1NT, pass, pass to her.

She bid 2♦ for the majors. If you think this is a bad bridge bid, look at the whole deal from a matchpoint point of view.

Board 3 North  
South dealer ♠ Q 9 7  
E-W vul ♥ 9 8 7 5  
♦ J 4 2  
♣ 9 7 3

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

South  
♠ J 2  
♥ A J 10  
♦ A 5 3  
♣ A 10 8 5 2

South	West	North	East
1 NT	pass	pass	2 ♦
pass	2 ♠	(all pass)	

Opening lead: ♣ 3

We took four tricks for -140, a 24% score. Notice what happens in 1NT or 1NT doubled. West leads a top spade and continues with a low spade. Suppose declarer wins in dummy and tries a heart. East splits, perhaps, and South wins the ♥A and continues hearts to East. Now the defenders cash two spade tricks as South throws clubs. Perhaps West will win the last spade and switch to a diamond, but more likely the defenders will play clubs. South wins, cashes her high heart and leads a club. East is endplayed. Making 90. Or 180. Even down one in 1NT is worth 69% for us. East's 2♦ bid was a matchpoint marvel.

On the second board of the round, however, we got even when 2♠ again was the contract:

Board 4	♠ K J 8 6		
West dealer	♥ Q 10 8 3		
All vul	♦ 7 4		
	♣ 10 8 4		
West		East	
♠ A 7 5 4 2		♠ Q 9	
♥ 9 7 5		♥ A 6 2	
♦ 6		♦ K Q 5 3 2	
♣ Q J 6 3		♣ A 5 2	
	South		
	♠ 10 3		
	♥ K J 4		
	♦ A J 10 9 8		
	♣ K 9 7		
West	North	East	South
pass	pass	1 NT	pass
2 ♥	pass	2 ♠	(all pass)

Opening lead: ♠ 10

I won the ♠K at trick one and led back the ♥10 (a surrounding play, in case declarer held A-J-x). Declarer won and led the ♦Q. My partner won the ace and continued hearts. After winning two hearts, I returned a diamond. Declarer won in hand, cashed the ♠Q and now had to play clubs from hand to go down only one. But she naturally ruffed a diamond in dummy, hoping to get a chance to draw trumps, if they were 3-3. I overruffed and led a club, so when Karen won her king she was able to play another diamond to promote the ♠J for down two. This was worth 82%.

Board 5	North		
North dealer	♠ 7 6 3		
N-S vul	♥ K J 8 5 4		
	♦ Q 10		
	♣ A 8 4		
West		East	
♠ 9 5		♠ 10 2	
♥ A Q 10 2		♥ 9 6 3	
♦ J 9 7 2		♦ K 8 5 4 3	
♣ K 7 3		♣ Q J 5	
	South		
	♠ A K Q J 8 4		
	♥ 7		
	♦ A 6		
	♣ 10 9 6 2		

West	North	East	South
—	pass	pass	1 ♠
pass	2 ♣*	pass	4 ♠
(all pass)			

\*Drury, three-card support

On this hand, Karen declared 4♠. West led the ♠5. She drew trump and led the ♥7 up. West won the ace and had to decide on a shift. Diamonds or clubs?

This would be a good hand for Switch in Time players. East could signal on the ♥A a preference for clubs by playing the ♥3. A diamond shift is fatal if declarer guesses to play the 10. Then an extra heart trick can be set up and two clubs disappear from the South hand. Making five was good for 89%.

On board 8, my partner blamed herself for a bad bid. What would you do?

South
♠ Q J 7 2 ♥ 2 ♦ A J 4 3 ♣ A Q 8 7

No one is vulnerable.

West	North	East	South
1 ♥	1 ♠	pass	?

Karen bid 4♥ splinter. It seems obvious but it backfired. I signed off in 4♠ and this was the full deal:

West dealer	North		
None vul	♠ K 9 6 5 3		
	♥ K 10 4		
	♦ Q 10 8		
	♣ 10 3		
West		East	
♠ A		♠ 10 8 4	
♥ A 9 8 7 5		♥ Q J 6 3	
♦ K 6		♦ 9 7 5 2	
♣ K J 9 6 5		♣ 4 2	
	South		
	♠ Q J 7 2		
	♥ 2		
	♦ A J 4 3		
	♣ A Q 8 7		

West	North	East	South
1 ♥	1 ♠	pass	4 ♥
pass	4 ♠	(all pass)	

East now led a club instead of a heart! After a heart lead, I can make 4♠ by drawing trump and giving up a diamond trick, pitching a club on dummy's fourth diamond. After a club lead, I was doomed. That was 13%.

To win a Mixed Pairs or any pair event for that matter you must receive some gifts. On board 11, we received the biggest gift in the play of the hand that I have seen in a long time. Declarer, a competent player (though you won't believe it when you see it), made the following play.

Dummy
♥ A Q J 10 9 8 5
Declarer
♥ 6 2

The contract was 3NT, even though dummy held seven hearts. Declarer, upon gaining the lead, led a heart to the queen. It held as we both followed. Declarer's next play was the jack of hearts!

Obviously, declarer had some kind of blind spot or hallucination. My partner won the ♥K doubleton onside and we scored 95%. To a certain player's credit (the dummy), the person said not one word to his partner. Dummy knew some kind of mental quirk had taken place and just went on to the next hand.

Board 12 was a great story....

A touching moment in Verona, when Janice-Seamon Molson's daughter is given the Venice Cup trophy from her mother. Her father, Mark Molson, passed away suddenly this spring.





Board 12  
 West dealer  
 N-S vul  
 North  
 ♠ 8 7  
 ♥ J 2  
 ♦ 8 6 3  
 ♣ K J 10 9 8 4

West  
 ♠ A Q 10 9 6 3 2  
 ♥ 8 7  
 ♦ K 10 7  
 ♣ 5

East  
 ♠ J 5  
 ♥ 9 6 5 4  
 ♦ A Q J 5  
 ♣ 7 6 3

South  
 ♠ K 4  
 ♥ A K Q 10 3  
 ♦ 9 4 2  
 ♣ A Q 2

West	North	East	South
1 ♠	pass	1 NT	2 ♥
2 ♠	pass	3 ♠	pass
4 ♠	(all pass)		

Board 13  
 South dealer  
 Both vul  
 North  
 ♠ K J 7 6 4  
 ♥ J 8 2  
 ♦ J 9  
 ♣ 7 6 5

West  
 ♠ 10  
 ♥ 9 4 3  
 ♦ K Q 7 6  
 ♣ K J 8 4 3

East  
 ♠ 8 5 2  
 ♥ K 10 7 5  
 ♦ 10 8 5 4 3  
 ♣ 9

South (MG)  
 ♠ A Q 9 3  
 ♥ A Q 6  
 ♦ A 2  
 ♣ A Q 10 2

South	West	North	East
2 ♣	pass	2 ♦	pass
2 NT	pass	3 ♥	pass
4 ♠	(all pass)		

I led the ♥J and we took three tricks for 26%. If you think that was unlucky, look at my wife's result with Bob Hamman:

	<i>Hamman</i>		<i>Pamela</i>
West	North	East	South
1 ♠	pass	1 NT	2 ♥
2 ♠	pass	pass	2 NT
pass	pass	double	(all pass)

West found the opening lead of . . . the ♦7! Well, Pamela went down six for minus 1700 for a fat zero, and she and Hamman had a roar of a story for the evening post-mortem. On a spade lead, of course, declarer makes 12 tricks and scores 100%. Welcome to matchpoints!

When you're endplayed, is it better to give declarer an extra trick by leading away from your honor into a tenace, or to give a ruff and sluff? I've found it's usually better to give the ruff sluff, but not on the following deal (hands rotated):

Opening lead: ♦K

I won in hand, drew two rounds of trump, West discarding a club, and led back a diamond. West tried a low heart. I played the 2 from dummy and East put in the 10, forcing my queen. The 7 would have been better, but that was difficult. I drew the last trump, and West, not knowing the diamond position yet, threw another club. Then I led a club to the 10. West was in and saw that the heart suit was probably frozen (dummy had J-8 and I had A-x). West could now be pretty certain that I held no more diamonds, since the ♣9 looked like a singleton and that gave South 4-4 in the blacks, three hearts and two diamonds. But a heart back would have saved a trick, since West still scores the ♣K. The actual choice of a diamond, and a ruff-sluff, allowed me to sluff a club from dummy, ruff in hand, cash the ♣A and ruff out the ♣K. Now my ♣Q was high for a heart pitch. Making five was worth 87% as opposed to 47% for making four.

On board 17, I messed up the follow-ups to the McCallum Two-Bids:

MG ♠ Q 10 ♥ J 7 3 ♦ A J 6 5 2 ♣ 8 6 4  2♦ pass	KM ♠ 8 7 6 5 ♥ A K 6 4 2 ♦ — ♣ A K Q J  2♥
---	--

I did not realize that I had to raise 2♥ to 3♥ with my awful hand. In the system, however, it's mandatory, and shows a weak raise. With a good raise and a singleton, you bid the singleton on the way to 3♥. With a good balanced raise, you rebid your weak two-bid suit!

Over a 3♥ bid, my partner would have bid 4♥, of course, and we would have been in the normal game, making. We scored a poor 12% for missing game.

On board 18 I held, vul vs. not:  
 ♠ A K 9 2 ♥ K 10 9 8 ♦ 8 5 4 ♣ 10 4

West — 1♦ pass	North — pass ?	East pass 1♠	South pass pass
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What would you do?

Should I double without clubs? Should I bid 1NT without a diamond stopper? This was the full hand:

Board 18 East dealer N-S vul  West ♠ Q 8 6 ♥ Q J ♦ K 10 7 6 ♣ J 8 7 3	North (MG) ♠ A K 9 2 ♥ K 10 9 8 ♦ 8 5 4 ♣ 10 4  East ♠ 10 7 5 3 ♥ 7 6 3 ♦ A 9 2 ♣ A K 9  South (KM) ♠ J 4 ♥ A 5 4 2 ♦ Q J 3 ♣ Q 6 5 2
---	---

West — 1♦	North — pass	East pass 1♠	South pass (all pass)
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Opening lead: ♣5

We defeated 1♠ by one trick for only 47% of the matchpoints. As you can see, we can make 140 in hearts and 120 in notrump. Was this one of those "close your eyes and bid 1NT" hands in the balancing position? Or perhaps I must overcall 1♥ over 1♦ just to get into the auction? I am open to suggestions. Email me, please.

Speaking of getting into the auction early, would you bid on this one?

♠ 9 ♥ Q J 6 5 4 2 ♦ 5 3 ♣ A J 5 3

You are vul vs. not this time, and it goes pass, pass, 1♠ to you. Anyone for a 2♥ overcall?

A number of players did overcall 2♥ but lived to regret it when the opponents reached 4♠ and partner doubled. Partner had her double. . . .

Board 19  
 South dealer  
 E-W vul  
 North  
 ♠ A K 6 4 2  
 ♥ 10 7  
 ♦ A K Q 10  
 ♣ K 10

West  
 ♠ Q J 10 8  
 ♥ K 9 3  
 ♦ 9 7 4 2  
 ♣ 9 6

South  
 ♠ 7 5 3  
 ♥ A 8  
 ♦ J 8 6  
 ♣ Q 8 7 4 2

South	West	North	East
pass	pass	1 ♠	2 ♥
2 ♠	3 ♥	4 ♠	pass
pass	double	(all pass)	

West was doubling also because of the vulnerability, where North might be a little light for the 4♠ bid, taking an “advance sacrifice.” The hand played like a dream for North. Win the heart lead, draw two rounds of trump and lead four rounds of diamonds, discarding the ♥8. Then a heart ruff and club lead for 10 tricks. By the way, at our table, East-West were silent, so we scored average. At 16 tables, however, East bid and West doubled the final contract.

Now for an opening lead problem. You are South, vul vs. not, with:

♠ 5 ♥ A 10 9 6 5 2 ♦ 7 6 ♣ K 8 7 6

West	North	East	South
—	2 ♠	3 ♣	pass
3 ♦	pass	3 NT	(all pass)

Do you lead your singleton spade or a heart?

The full hand was:

Board 21  
 North dealer  
 N-S vul  
 North  
 ♠ K 10 9 7 6 2  
 ♥ 8 4 3  
 ♦ A J 9 3  
 ♣ —

West  
 ♠ J  
 ♥ J 7  
 ♦ K Q 10 8 5 4 2  
 ♣ A 5 2

South  
 ♠ 5  
 ♥ A 10 9 6 5 2  
 ♦ 7 6  
 ♣ K 8 7 6

East  
 ♠ A Q 8 4 3  
 ♥ K Q  
 ♦ —  
 ♣ Q J 10 9 4 3

West	North	East	South
—	2 ♠	3 ♣	pass
3 ♦	pass	3 NT	(all pass)

Opening lead: ♥6

My partner led a heart and we defeated 3NT three tricks (72%). A spade lead also defeats 3NT but by one trick (if the defenders are careful — North must not throw two hearts away).

Board 22 was our last board of the session....

Board 22	North (MG)		
East dealer	♠ A Q 8 6		
E-W vul	♥ K 7		
	♦ J 9 7		
	♣ 7 6 5 4		
West		East	
♠ 10 9 7		♠ K 5 4 2	
♥ A 3 2		♥ 10 9 5	
♦ K 8 4		♦ A Q 10 6 3	
♣ Q 9 8 2		♣ K	
	South (KM)		
	♠ J 3		
	♥ Q J 8 6 4		
	♦ 5 2		
	♣ A J 10 3		

West	North	East	South
—	—	1 ♦	1 ♥
double	redouble	2 ♠	(all pass)

Opening lead: ♥4

West's negative double, rather than a simple 1NT bid, got him a zero. My redouble showed a heart honor and Karen did well to lead a low heart rather than the queen. Declarer went up with the ace and

I dropped my king. Declarer floated the ♠10 to the jack, and Karen cashed her two hearts, as I discarded a diamond. Next came ♣A and ♣J to the queen. Declarer won the queen in dummy and led another trump to the queen and king. At this point, she could have cashed diamonds, conceding two more trump tricks for down one. But she played to make the hand. She cashed two diamonds and then led a third trump, hoping they would split. I won the 9 with the ace and forgot my 6 was high! I led a club. Declarer ruffed with the ♠5 and led a high diamond, which I ruffed sheepishly with the ♠6. At trick 13, I led a club to partner's 10. Down two was good for 99% so I was not too upset with myself.

When the scores came out, we were pleased. With a small carry-over from the qualifying, our total was 63.38%, which put us in third place behind Haemmerli-Versace (66.52%) and Hochheker-Cichocki (63.79%). Would we hang on to get a medal? Would we be able to catch Alfredo Versace, who seems to win everything these days? Tune in to the next issue for more.

## Winners Circle: Chicago Summer Nationals

### Grand National Teams

1. Bob and Petra Hamman, John and Peggy Sutherlin, Hemant and Justin Lall, Dallas TX

### Life Master Pairs

1. Bjorn Fallenius and Bart Bramley

### Senior Swiss Teams

1. Geoffrey Brod, Stephen Earl, Richard DeMartino, John Stiefel

### Fast Pairs

1. Nicolas L'Ecuyer and Robert Lebi

### Mixed Teams

1. Beth Palmer - William Pettis, Bill and Rozanne Pollack, Lynn Deas

### Open Swiss

1. Christal Henner-Welland - Roy Welland, Bjorn Fallenius, Antonio Sementa, Cezary Balicki, Adam Zmudzinski

### Spingold KO Teams

1. Nick Nickell, Richard Freeman, Bob Hamman, Paul Soloway, Jeff Meckstroth, Eric Rodwell

### Wagar Women's KO Teams

1. Judi Radin, Sylvia Moss, Pamela Granovetter, Migry Zur Campanile, Shawn Quinn, Mildred Breed

## Tip of the Month:

### Do Not Put Down a Bad Dummy

by Pamela Granovetter

#### Preview

You are playing the finals of a world championship matchpoint event. Your partner opens 1♣ and you hold:

♠ Q 9 7 ♥ K Q 10 8 2 ♦ Q 5 2 ♣ 10 3

The bidding continues:

Partner	RHO	You	LHO
1 ♣	pass	1 ♥	double
2 ♣*	pass	?	

\* denies three-card heart support

What are your thoughts about this hand?

I was discussing bridge in a restaurant in Verona, Italy, with some of my teammates, when a theory of Karen McCallum's came up....

"Karen," I said, "says not to put down a bad dummy." My teammates wondered how you can avoid putting down a bad dummy if that's what you've been dealt! "Well," I continued, "rather than putting down what you know will be a useless dummy, you, if possible, try to improve the contract. To give a basic example, if partner opens a gambling 3NT and you lack controls (for example, say you have:

♠ Q x x x ♥ K 10 x ♦ x x ♣ J 10 9 x), you remove 3NT to 4♣ (pass or correct). You don't leave your partner to play in a contract that for sure is going down a number of tricks, even if you think that by removing 3NT

to four-of-a-minor, you might let them in — with enough nuisance cards, you don't know for sure that they can make anything, but you do know for sure that 3NT is a horrible contract. The point is that you never sit there, prepared to go down a few tricks, when there might be a better place to play."

I continued: "Here's another example —

♠ 9 ♥ A 10 5 ♦ K 8 4 ♣ A Q J 6 5 2

"Everyone is vulnerable and you open 1♣. The bidding continues:

You	LHO	Partner	RHO
1 ♣	1 ♦	1 ♠	pass
2 ♣	pass	2 ♠	pass
?			

"I bet Karen would not be willing to put down this hand as dummy. For one thing, the lead would be coming through her king of diamonds, which becomes worthless. For another, partner might have bid 2♠ the first time (rather than 1♠) with a 'let's play this hand in spades' sort of hand, so 2♠ here should be more cooperative. Holding the (almost) worst possible spade-support in addition to the wasted king of diamonds, I think Karen would correct the partscore to 2NT. At the table, 2♠ was passed with this hand and when spades broke 5-1, the result was -200 instead of +130 in 3♣, which partner would have happily rebid over 2NT, holding: ♠ A 8 7 6 3 2 ♥ K 3 ♦ 9 5 ♣ 10 9 8."

Later, after the Women's Pairs first final session, Shawn Quinn told me about Board 14 — the preview hand.

Women's Pairs Final, First Session, Board 14

East dealer	North		
None vul	♠ J 10 8 6		
	♥ A 7 5		
	♦ A K 10 6		
	♣ K 5		
West (Shawn)		East (Mildred)	
♠ Q 9 7		♠ A K 2	
♥ K Q 10 8 2		♥ 6 3	
♦ Q 5 2		♦ J 9	
♣ 10 3		♣ A Q 9 7 6 4	
	South		
	♠ 5 4 3		
	♥ J 9 4		
	♦ 8 7 4 3		
	♣ J 8 2		

<i>Shawn</i>		<i>Mildred</i>	
West	North	East	South
—	—	1 ♣	pass
1 ♥	double	2 ♣*	pass
2 NT	pass	3 NT	(all pass)

\*denies three-card heart support

Shawn was playing with Mildred Breed. What possessed her to bid 2NT with the West cards? She told me that she remembered what I had said about putting down bad dummies.

"I thought my hand might be of little use to Mildred in a 2♣ contract," said Shawn. "Without a heart fit, my heart suit wouldn't produce much for our side, and, not only that, the lead would be going through one of my queens. Playing from my side, the hearts might be worth something, and the lead would be coming toward a queen rather than through it. I did some calculating and thought perhaps I could set up Mildred's clubs for five tricks, take a heart trick for six, find a seventh trick in dummy, and score a trick on the lead for a total of eight tricks in a notrump contract. So my 2NT bid seemed like a good bet.

"When Mildred raised to 3NT, I felt a little guilty about my paucity of high-card points, and hoped Mildred would understand if 3NT failed."

North led a high diamond, and continued with a low diamond at trick two. North was unlikely to have both club honors, so Shawn couldn't play on clubs because she would lose three diamonds, one club, and the ace of hearts. Therefore, she needed the jack of hearts to be onside third (or jack-nine doubleton). So she played a heart off dummy at trick three and was gratified to see the 9 appear (they were playing upside-down count). The best they could do was to take their three diamonds and one heart, and Shawn had nine tricks. Shawn and Mildred scored a near top on this board.

My tip is this: When you find yourself in what looks like a poor contract, consider moving to a different locale — that is, a different trump suit or notrump!

## At last . . . my turn to be a World Champion!

by Shlomo Zeligman, Tel Aviv

— a Senior finally wins the gold —

The editor of *Israel Bridge Magazine*, Pietro Campanile, just got off the phone begging me to write an article on the gold medal I won in the Senior Teams last month at the World Bridge Championships in Verona. Me writing? Ouch! Where should I begin? I suppose I could start by sharing with you how really nice it is to be at the top of that podium. I have been standing often enough on the lower steps and I can tell you that the view from up there is much, much better. Surprising, isn't it? And yet the excitement of the prize-giving ceremony and the congratulations are part of a world which is spinning so fast around you that you don't realize the size of your achievement: After winning I felt a little bit of an anticlimax. The prize-giving ceremony went so fast that it made my head spin: You go up, you get your medal, you tell yourself you did it, you won and yet it takes time to sink in. A few days later you are back home, you put on your slippers, reach for the newspaper and then the thought comes to you: I am a world champion.

OK, OK, a senior world champion but, then, why should that be any less important? After all, in the job world what would you rather be: a Senior Manager or just a Manager? Senior is good, let me tell you: Senior means experience, solidity, reliability. In fact I think that from now on the real World Championships should be the Senior

ones! After all doesn't everyone say that the majority of bridge players are over 60? But I am digressing, back to the tournament!

Well, as you can imagine it was a lot of fun. First of all I was playing with friends, people I felt I have known all my life, all from good, hearty Polish stock . . . my partner Victor Melman, Victor Markowicz, both of whom have moved to the USA, Julian Klukowski, Jerzy Zaremba and Aleksandr Jezioro. We have all grown apart from each other, each in his own very different world and yet when I am with them I feel we have always been together. For all of us bridge has been a very important part of our lives and over the last few years we have traveled together to many a European and world championship, usually doing very well but never quite realizing what I felt was our full potential.

Here things seemed to click right from the start. The 42 teams taking part played a ten-round Swiss to qualify the top eight teams to the knock-out stage and we finished first with 197 VPs, having a relatively easy time of it and only suffering one serious defeat against a good USA team.

Here is a nice example of cunning play by Victor Markowicz in what looks to be a hopeless contract. It's from the qualifying match against the Norwegian Sorvoll team:

North dealer	North	
N-S Vul	♠ K 8 7	
	♥ 10 4 3	
	♦ A K J 10	
	♣ 10 9 3	
West		East (Markowicz)
♠ J 9 5 4		♠ A 6
♥ 8 7 2		♥ K Q J
♦ 9 7 6		♦ Q 3
♣ Q 7 5		♣ A K J 8 6 4
	South	
	♠ Q 10 3 2	
	♥ A 9 6 5	
	♦ 8 5 4 2	
	♣ 2	

After Markowicz showed a strong hand with clubs by opening 1♣ and rebidding 2NT, Zaremba (West) decided to aggressively raise his partner to three, since, as he often says: "A faint heart never caught a fair lady!" (Junior players rarely say such things, right?)

South led the ♠2 to the 9, king and ace. Declarer took stock of the situation, which was by no means pretty. He could count on seven tricks with a possibility of taking two more in hearts but for the near certainty that the opponents would switch to diamonds and scuttle the contract the moment hearts were touched. In such situations most players would simply give up and run their long suit hoping for an unlikely discarding miracle. In practice good opponents would take advantage of the run of the clubs to carefully signal to each other what they hold and what they will keep. Which is why Markowicz opted to cast a cloud of smoke over the hand by going up to dummy with the ♣Q in order to play... a diamond!

North inserted his ♦K and naturally switched to the very suit declarer was desperate to see played: hearts! South took

Markowicz's ♥K with his ace and returned a heart to a grateful declarer. Three notrump making was worth 10 imps when at the other table the Norwegians played in 3♣ making.

Often in the round robin I felt that we could do no wrong and even on the few occasions we landed in below-par contracts, we managed to come out smelling of roses.

Have a look at the two hands below. How would you like to be in 7♥?

North
♠ A Q 6 4
♥ 9 2
♦ K J 6 4
♣ 10 4 2
South
♠ 7 3
♥ A K Q 10 8 7 5
♦ A
♣ A Q 5

Let's see. Most players would reply that 6♥ already needs a lot of luck, while 7♥ needs a miracle! They would be right. However, that did not seem to stop Victor Melman and me from getting to this rather poor grand against the French Piganeau team. At least I had the advantage of being on the right side of the deal: the dummy side that is!

Before you see the East-West hands, consider your line of play after a favorable club lead to the king.

Here is the complete layout....



<p>North</p> <p>♠ A Q 6 4</p> <p>♥ 9 2</p> <p>♦ K J 6 4</p> <p>♣ 10 4 2</p>	<p>East</p> <p>♠ K J 8 5</p> <p>♥ J 4 3</p> <p>♦ 8 7 3 2</p> <p>♣ K 7</p>	<p>South (Victor)</p> <p>♠ 7 3</p> <p>♥ A K Q 10 8 7 5</p> <p>♦ A</p> <p>♣ A Q 5</p>	<p>♠ A Q</p> <p>♥ —</p> <p>♦ K J</p> <p>♣ 10</p> <p>♠ 10</p> <p>♥ —</p> <p>♦ Q 10</p> <p>♣ J 9</p> <p>♠ 7 3</p> <p>♥ 5</p> <p>♦ —</p> <p>♣ Q 5</p>									
<p>West</p> <p>♠ 10 9 2</p> <p>♥ 6</p> <p>♦ Q 10 9 5</p> <p>♣ J 9 8 6 3</p>	<p>West</p> <table style="border: 1px solid black; width: 40px; height: 40px; margin: 0 auto; text-align: center;"> <tr><td></td><td>N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td></td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		<p>immaterial</p>	
	N											
W		E										
	S											

Faced with a lot of unattractive options, the French West opted for a club lead and that at least gave Victor his twelfth trick. All he had to worry about now was where the thirteenth would come from.

He had several options: a spade finesse, the ♦Q tripleton (if dummy could be reached twice), or a squeeze of some sort. After the ♥J failed to drop under the ace (making the ♥9 an entry), declarer had to give up on the ♦Q third, and it looked like the spade finesse was needed. But true to his Polish heritage ("A Polish officer never finesses!"), Victor opted for the squeeze instead. But he had to be careful in setting the right end-position. He ran all his trumps getting to this layout:



Zeligman, enjoying senior moments!

When he played the last heart, West threw a spade and Victor threw the ♠Q from dummy. On a spade to the ace, West was squeezed and his only choice was which poison to take, since whatever he pitched would present declarer with his thirteenth trick and a grand slam. The French stopped (sensibly enough) in 6♥ so we had a nice 11-imp gain.

Our first-place finish in the round-robin meant that we could choose our next opponent, and as usual I stood aside letting my teammates argue about the choice. Eventually they settled on the Italian Marino team, which included names that nobody recognized. This maybe made us relax a little and our Italian opponents quickly took an unexpected 46-15 lead in the first half of our match. Wake up, everybody, we said to each other, time to show these guys what we can do. We came back determined to turn things around and we did: The second half was one-way traffic and we cruised to a 62-4 score, which meant an overall win of 77-50.

No time to rest on our laurels: The following day a strong Dutch team (Trouwborst-Boegem; Doremans-Janssens; Klaver-Ramer) was eager to contest us the right to get to the final.

The match was well played by both sides, as the very low scoring proved. We won the first half 19-4 and managed to contain their comeback, just edging them in a much livelier second half for a total score of 49-32.

We were in the final! Our opponents would be, who else, the much fancied Americans: Team Finkel (Sutherlin-Finkel; Kasle-Mohan), packed with full-time bridge professionals, old hands at this kind of tense moment. The final was a see-saw of emotions. Again we lagged behind and my team was down by 22 imps at the half. As I got ready to play the second half a good friend wished me luck, but he was worried about our deficit. I told him not to worry — even when we are behind we do not lose heart.

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The second half started with another bad swing for us but that was to be the last positive imps the Americans would score.

Vulnerable versus not, you hold in first seat:

♠ 8  
♥ A J 3 2  
♦ 8 6 2  
♣ K Q J 6 3

What do you do? Do you open or pass?

Your decision will markedly affect the result on the hand. Klukowski decided, correctly in my view, to open because of the good honor concentration, which could easily help partner to find the correct lead even if the opponents buy the hand.

Here is the complete layout:

South dealer	North	
N-S vul	♠ Q J 6 2	
	♥ Q	
	♦ A K 10 7	
	♣ 10 8 7 2	
West (Shlomo)		East (Victor)
♠ A K 7 5 4 3		♠ 10 9
♥ 10 6 5		♥ K 9 8 7 4
♦ 9 3		♦ Q J 5 4
♣ 9 5		♣ A 4
	South	
	♠ 8	
	♥ A J 3 2	
	♦ 8 6 2	
	♣ K Q J 6 3	

Our teammates easily reached the unbeatable 3NT after Klukowski's 1♣ opening. At my table the American South passed, I opened a multi 2♦, and we gained a nice swing when neither opponent found anything to bid over Victor's 2♠ reply.

Eventually we managed to recover all of our losses and we drew even with two boards left to play in the match. The next board would, unbeknown to us, settle the outcome of the match and it would do so in a most unlikely way.

Vulnerable versus not you hold:

♠ J 9 2  
♥ Q J 10 4  
♦ 9 3  
♣ K 10 8 6

Your partner opens 1NT, pass to you. Would any of the players out there do anything but pass? I admit I would pass and without giving it a second thought.

Well, this is the complete hand:

West dealer	North		East
E-W vul	♠ 7 5 4		♠ J 9 2
	♥ A 6 2		♥ Q J 10 4
	♦ K Q 8 7 2		♦ 9 3
	♣ 9 4		♣ K 10 8 6
West		South	
♠ A K Q 6		♠ 10 8 3	
♥ 9 8 5 3		♥ K 7	
♦ 6 4		♦ A J 10 5	
♣ A Q J		♣ 7 5 3 2	

As you can see bidding is the winning action: 1NT inevitably goes one down after the defense collects five diamonds and two hearts, while a heart partscore makes.

The American East passed while at my table Victor Melman decided to bid 2♣,

which allowed us to play a successful heart partscore. That one seemingly unlikely action made all the difference: The siximps we gained were the ones that let us beat our strong and worthy opponents 59-53.

I am not attempting to sell you on the serendipity of winning. Hardly. What I am trying to explain is that in such tense playing conditions, where every card and every bid counts, players sometimes, very rarely in fact, enter a state of enhanced concentration. My American friend, Fred Gitelman, calls this "heat one," where whatever you do is right, and you are able to make decisions that turn out to be inspired despite having little or no theoretical justification. This is as much a part of the beauty of our game as an exciting squeeze or an elaborate endplay; it is something that shall forever elude any machine trying to achieve full mastery of the game and ultimately is what makes bridge so fascinating.



From left to right: Klukowski, Melman, Markowicz, Zaremba, Jezioro, Zeligman



## The Wizards of Aus

by Ron Klinger

This deal comes from the Australian National Senior Teams.

East dealer	North		
All vul	♠ Q J 9 4		
	♥ Q 8 7		
	♦ A 8 7		
	♣ K 4 2		
West		East	
♠ 7		♠ 10 6	
♥ J 9 6 5		♥ A 3	
♦ K 6 5 4		♦ Q J 9 3	
♣ A Q J 6		♣ 10 9 8 7 3	
	South		
	♠ A K 8 5 3 2		
	♥ K 10 4 2		
	♦ 10 2		
	♣ 5		

West	North	East	South
—	—	pass	1 ♠
double	3 NT*	pass	4 ♠
(all pass)			

\* raise to 4♠

West has no attractive lead. The riskiest is the ♣A and a singleton trump can also cost. That leaves a choice between J-x-x-x and K-x-x-x in the red suits. In general, leading from a king is safer than leading from a jack and worked well here.

In one match West led a low diamond, taken by the ace. South won, drew trumps and led a heart to the queen and ace. The

defense now collected a diamond, the ♣A and the ♥J later in the day for one off.

At the other table West led the ♠7. South won, drew the missing trump and led a low club towards the king. West took the ♣A, but the ♣K allowed South to discard the diamond loser and the contract made.

It is true that South can make 4♠ even after a diamond lead, but the successful heart play (low towards the king and ducking the next heart) is not the normal way to play this combination. Having said that, one must consider the auction. On the surface, West's takeout double of spades indicates he is more likely to hold the ♥A, but the distribution is the key factor here. If West has four hearts, a heart toward the king is just as good as a heart to the queen and a heart back toward the 10, because if the ♥K loses to the ace, the ♥J might drop doubleton. While if the ♥K wins, declarer can try to duck a heart to the ace. This will lose only if West has made a great play of ducking the ♥K smoothly with ace-empty-fourth of hearts.

Proceeding further, the best line after the takeout double and a diamond lead is to strip the minors. When all the minor-suit cards are gone, lead a heart to the king. If it loses, West must return a heart, and you hope it's from the jack. When the ♥K wins, however, you duck a heart and don't care what card East shows up with, as long as he held two of them to begin with.

## Building a Better Mousetrap

by Matthew Granovetter

How do you use this sequence:

Opener	Responder
1 NT	2 ♦
2 ♥	2 ♠

We use it for many types of hands that are difficult to describe, all game forcing:

- (1) any 4441 shape
- (2) 13 or 31 in the majors with 45 or 54 minors
- (3) a strong raise to 4NT (stronger than 1NT-4NT)
- (4) 44 in the minors and a light raise to 4NT

Here's how we do it. Over 2♠ opener bids 2NT to ask what type of hand responder has. Responder now bids:

- 3♣ = 44 in the majors with a singleton minor
- 3♦ = 1-4-4-4 shape specifically
- 3♥ = 4-1-4-4 shape specifically
- 3♠ = 3-1 in the majors with the minors
- 3NT = 1-3 in the majors with the minors
- 4♣ = 1-3-4-5 slam interest (too strong for 3NT)
- 4♦ = 1-3-5-4 slam interest (too strong for 3NT)
- 4♥ = 2-3-4-4 with 14-15 HCP
- 4♠ = 3-2-4-4 with 14-15 HCP
- 4NT = a strong 4NT raise, asking opener to bid slam unless he is rock bottom

Over 3♣, opener may bid 3♦ without a major or bid a major to set trumps, whereupon responder shows his singleton in steps (first step diamond sing, second step club). Now opener may invite a slam with a cuebid and responder cuebids with extra strength (beyond his game-forcing strength).

Over anything else, opener sets trump if he wants to try for slam.

Sometimes opener will want to pre-accept hearts after a 2♦ response. In this system, he must bid 2♠ to do this. Then responder bids 2NT to say he has hearts, while any bid at the three level or higher shows one of the special sequences. Here are two examples using a 15-17 range:

♠ A K x	♠ Q J x x
♥ A x	♥ K Q x x
♦ x x x x	♦ x
♣ K Q J x	♣ A x x x

1 NT	2 ♦ (transfer)
2 ♥	2 ♠ (special)
2 NT	3 ♣ (4-4 majors)
3 ♦	3 ♥ (sing. diamond)
4 ♣ (sets trump)	4 ♥ (cue, extra values)
4 NT	5 ♦ (one keycard)
6 ♣	pass

Notice if responder held a singleton club, opener would sign off in 3NT.

♠ K x x x	♠ Q x x
♥ A x x	♥ K Q x
♦ K J x	♦ A Q 10 x
♣ K J x	♣ A x x

1 NT	2 ♦ (transfer)
2 ♥	2 ♠ (special)
2 NT	4 NT (strong invite to slam)
pass	

## Hands from Scotland

by Liz McGowan

### Double Throw-In

West dealer	North		
N-S vul	♠ A Q J 3		
	♥ J 7 4		
	♦ A J 10 4		
	♣ 10 5		
West		East	
♠ 8 7		♠ 5 2	
♥ A Q 10 9 5 2		♥ 8	
♦ K 9 7 6		♦ 3 2	
♣ 2		♣ K Q J 9 8 7 6 4	
	South		
	♠ K 10 9 6 4		
	♥ K 6 3		
	♦ Q 8 5		
	♣ A 3		
West	North	East	South
2 ♥	double	5 ♣	5 ♠
(all pass)			

Opening lead: ♣ 2

This deal, from a friendly match between a French club and one from Loughborough, was reported to me by Jim Mason. East's 5♣ response to a weak two was an attempt to give opponents an easy 500, but South preferred to go after his vulnerable game.

Ace and another heart would be the winning defense (East will later score a club trick), but West naturally led his singleton club. Declarer won, drew trump in two rounds, and tried a diamond to the jack. He returned to a spade and played the ♦Q, covered with the king. When diamonds did not break he ruffed the fourth round and exited with a despairing club, playing East for the singleton ace of hearts. No luck this time.

Several hours (and beers) later declarer spotted the unusual double throw-in that makes his contract. He can discard his remaining club on the fourth diamond to produce a loser-on-loser endplay. West has nothing left but hearts. Ace and another heart allows declarer to make two heart tricks, so West leads a low heart, planning to make two tricks later.

Later never comes: Declarer wins in dummy and plays a club, discarding a heart, which forces East to give a ruff and discard. It does not help East to refuse this trick — the ten of clubs is the eleventh trick. So declarer makes 5♠ by losing a diamond to West and a club to East, but no hearts!

## A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum...

by Pamela Granovetter

My team won the Wager Team (women's) knockout event in Chicago. During the second quarter in the afternoon, two friends of mine came to kibitz in the playing room (which was a hotel room, isolated from the rest of the playing areas). My friends told me the tension was so strong in that room you could cut it with a knife! And I thought it was a friendly, relaxed match, because my partner, Migry Zur Campanile, and I were playing against Pam Wittes and Linda Lewis, two of the nicest competitors I know!

Going into the second half of the final, we were leading by 44 imps and for the third quarter we were going to face Pam and Linda again, this time on the BBO Vugraph. We were having a very good set at our table (they had bid a grand slam that went down, and they let us play 4♠ doubled, making, when the contract could have been defeated by two tricks after a different opening lead and meanwhile they were cold for 5♥) when Board 12 (out of 16) came along. I was West, Linda Lewis was North, Migry was East, and Pam Wittes was South.

West dealer	North (Linda Lewis)											
N-S vul	♠ A 9 8 5											
	♥ J 10 7 4											
	♦ Q 8 5 3											
	♣ A											
West (me)	<table border="1" style="border-collapse: collapse; width: 40px; height: 40px; margin: auto;"> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W</td><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">S</td><td></td></tr> </table>				N		W		E		S	
	N											
W		E										
	S											
♠ Q 6 3												
♥ 9 6 5												
♦ A 4												
♣ Q 10 9 7 2												
Pam W.	Me	Linda L.	Migry									
pass	pass	1 ♦	pass									
1 ♠	pass	2 ♠	pass									
4 ♠	(all pass)											

dummy, Migry followed low, and Pam won the king. Then she played a spade to the ace and a spade to her king, Migry following with the seven and jack. At trick four, Pam played a diamond from her hand and I went into the tank.

It looked like I should pop ace, cash my high trump, and exit with a club. However, after showing up with the ace-king of hearts and king of spades, there was still room for Pam to hold the jack of diamonds, despite the fact that she was a passed hand. I didn't want to pop my ace if the diamond layout was something like:

	♦ Q 8 5 3
♦ A 4	♦ K 10 7 2
	♦ J 9 6

How unusual for Pam, a passed hand, to jump to game. Was this an attempt to change the "mo" so they could get back to striking distance? Not that I blamed her! Pam, however, looked unhappy and pessimistic after dummy hit. I led the ♥6 (MUD) and Pam played a low heart from

This layout would certainly account for

Pam's long face. So I followed low in case Pam would finesse me for the 10. Pam did play the 8, but Migry won the jack of diamonds. Migry then returned a highish club spot. Pam won the ace in dummy, played a heart to her ace, and then another diamond up. I won the ♦A, cashed my ♠Q, Migry pitching a low club, and got out confidently with a club.

Pam looked up at me in shock and tabled her hand, claiming the contract, discarding two diamonds from dummy. The whole layout was:

	North (Linda)	
	♠ A 9 8 5	
	♥ J 10 7 4	
	♦ Q 8 5 3	
	♣ A	
West (me)		East (Migry)
♠ Q 6 3		♠ J 7
♥ 9 6 5		♥ Q 8 3 2
♦ A 4		♦ K J 2
♣ Q 10 9 7 2		♣ 6 5 4 3
	South (Pam)	
	♠ K 10 4 2	
	♥ A K	
	♦ 10 9 7 6	
	♣ K J 8	

I couldn't believe Pam had passed that hand in first seat!

Well, it turns out I (West) was the dealer, and Pam was *not* a passed hand! The real auction started with a pass by me and a 1♦ opening in second seat by Linda.

Why had I thought Pam was a passed hand? Had I been hallucinating? (See page 16 for a similar mental short-circuit.) Without my lapse, it would have been easy enough to exit with a heart, because I could do some math, count declarer's tricks, and find out that an extra heart trick wouldn't

help (at the time, I thought she was on a guess for the extra heart trick if she needed it, because I followed to the second heart with the 9, consistent with an original holding of Q-9-6). At the table, though, it was 100% clear that as a passed hand, declarer couldn't hold the ♣K, so the club play was fine, too (I thought).

My friends told me afterwards that since our team was up 87 imps at the point where I had this lapse, it was difficult to play hard, and that would explain the funny thing that had happened. But the truth is that I was trying just as hard on this hand as I had on every other hand. I didn't know we were up 87, and although Linda and Pam were having their troubles, I think when hands are difficult at one table, they are difficult at the other table as well and it's a bad plan to let up *ever* ("it ain't over 'til it's over" and all that jazz).

As a reporter, I have often covered matches and have seen some pretty amazing blunders. When they happen, I wonder how players at this level can make such bad plays. I once theorized that perhaps there are little bridge elves who scatter dust in people's brains and cause them to lose concentration. Well, now I believe my theory may be correct!

I think the bottom line is that when a player is busting a gut on every single hand, bearing down with every ounce of strength and concentration, board after board, there will be mental lapses now and again. Just as major-league ball players make errors, so must bridge players, or contestants in any other competitive game. I'd like this not to happen to me ever again, but it surely will. In the meantime, I will have more empathy for other people's "inexplicable" blunders in the future. See you in September.