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Editor: Matthew Granovetter

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The Red Pencil

by Matthew Granovetter

~~Puppet Stayman~~



Here's another convention you can put a red pencil through and never look back. The idea of Puppet Stayman is for responder to learn about a 2NT opener's 5-card major. You bid 3♣ and opener bids a five-card major but bids 3♦ or 3NT without a five-card major, 3♦ promising at least one four-card major. Over 3♦, responder can now bid the major he *doesn't* have, to say that he has the other four-card major — this rightsides the contract if there is a 4-4 fit.

The advantage of Puppet Stayman is that responder can locate a 5-3 major fit when opener has a five-card major. The disadvantages of Puppet Stayman, however, are many and not worth the advantage. Let's list them:

(1) It allows fourth hand to double for a lead.

South	West	North	East
2 NT	pass	3 ♣	double

North was looking for a 5-3 fit, but East has the ♣K-Q-J-x-x and gets his lead.

South	West	North	East
2 NT	pass	3 ♣	pass
3 ♦	pass	3 ♠	double

This time North has four hearts and must bid 3♠ to show them. East has only the ♠Q-J-10-x-x, but his partner has king

doubleton and the spade lead beats 3NT.

(2) It tells the defenders gratuitous information about opener's hand, helping them on defense.

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

West was about to lead a spade from the ♠Q-10-8-3, but when he hears about South's five-card spade suit, he doesn't.

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

North was looking for a five-card major, and South denied one but also denied a four-card major. This will surely make the defense easier.

(3) The convention takes away other important bids from responder.

South	West	North	East
2 NT	pass	3 ♣	pass
3 ♦	pass	3 M	

Most of us play this as Smolen, showing four cards in the major bid and five in the other. Using Puppet Stayman, responder does not have these bids available, because they show *four* cards in the other major.

Puppet players use the following method:

South	West	North	East
2 NT	pass	3 ♦	pass
3 ♥	pass	3 ♠	

Responder transfers to 3♥ and bids 3♠ to show four spades and five hearts, using up a useful bid and at the same time wrong-siding the contract if opener has four spades.

When responder has five spades and four hearts, there is nothing responder can do. Some Puppet pairs give up on ever showing five spades and four hearts, and other Puppet pairs employ more artificial bids over 3♣. They rebid 3♦ with one or both four-card majors and 3♥ with no four-card major. This permits responder to show five spades but *wrong-sides* the contract again!

Puppet players who use the artificial 3♥ rebid play that a 3♠ rebid shows five spades and 3NT five hearts. Now responder must transfer back to 4♥, adding more artificiality and taking away the natural 4♦ rebid.

The Natural Alternative

Just because you don't play Puppet Stayman does not mean you must lose your 5-3 major fits. Often you can bring the five-card major into the picture by simply opening it at the one level. Yes, it's true, you can bid it yourself and even stop low if partner has nothing.

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

One heart is a nice contract, nu?

A one-spade opening bid might also work a lot better than a 2NT opening bid when partner has a good hand. For example, suppose partner has a spade fit and short diamonds:

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

After 1♠-4♦, you bid KCB and land in 7♠ with ease. Do you think it's easy to get to 7♠ after 2NT-3♣-3♠?

Or suppose the two hands look like this:

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

You're on a finesse for 4♥, but if you open 2NT, you might play it there, down one!

And finally sometimes you will open 2NT with a five-card major and avoid the 5-3 major-suit fit and get lucky (you are allowed to get lucky sometimes):

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

Here 3NT makes nine tricks after a heart lead and probably after a club lead. But 4♠ is a tougher contract and goes down quickly if spades are 4-1.

Have a good month!

Are You Thinking Logically?

by Marshall Miles

West dealer
All vul

North
 ♠ K 8 7 5
 ♥ A 3
 ♦ K 4
 ♣ K Q J 10 7

West (you)
 ♠ 4
 ♥ K 7
 ♦ J 6 5 2
 ♣ A 9 8 6 4 3



West	North	East	South
pass	1 ♣	1 ♦	1 ♠
2 ♦	3 ♠	pass	4 ♠

You lead the ♦5, your third best diamond (third best from even, lowest from odd). Partner wins the queen and ace. What diamond do you play on the second round?

Next question: Suppose your hand was ♠4 2 ♥K ♦J 6 5 2 ♦A 9 8 6 4 3. Now what diamond would you play on the second round? (Solution below.)

Solution

The danger is that partner will lead a singleton club, hoping to ruff a club. Partner has no clue that you hold six clubs and that he can be overruffed. If you play your smallest remaining diamond to show you started with four, partner will almost surely lead a club if he has a singleton. If you play your next to highest remaining diamond, that is a wishy-washy signal, meaning you don't know what you want partner to do. I think you should play the jack. Then if partner has the queen or J-10 of hearts, a heart lead will set the contract, whenever it can be set.

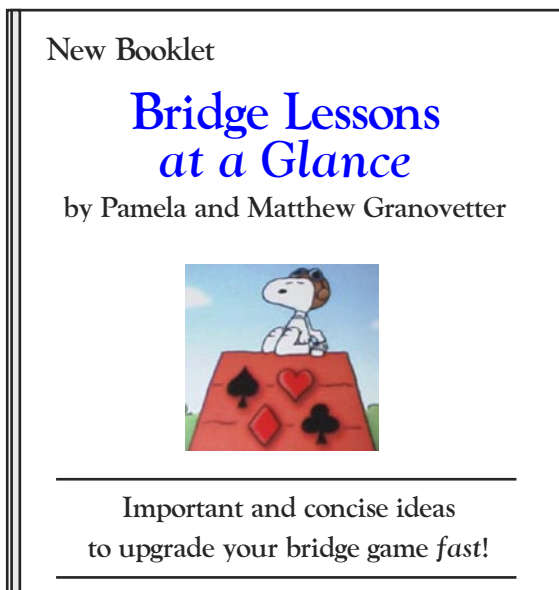
Even if declarer has the ♥Q-10-(x-x), he may misguess and play the queen. Is there a chance that declarer has ♦10-x-x, and playing the jack of diamonds would allow him to discard dummy's small heart on the ten? (or the ♦10-9-x if declarer plays the ten on

the second round? Not likely, since partner would be unlikely to overcall a four-card diamond suit, vulnerable, with at least five hearts in his hand. Where are the hearts?

No matter what you do, partner probably won't guess your actual distribution, but the violent signal in diamonds should persuade him to lead a heart. You might hold the king of hearts and ace of trumps, for example.

The second problem (when you have the singleton ♥K) is slightly tougher. It is still right to play the ♦J to prevent partner from shifting to a singleton club. Partner actually held: ♠J 3 ♥Q 8 5 4 2 ♦A Q 8 7 4 ♣2, and since you were a passed hand, he thought there was little chance to buy the contract, not to mention make a game, so he overcalled diamonds for the lead.

Sneak Preview



Order from Bridgetoday.com — \$10.95

COMPETITIVE
"SHOW AND TELL" AUCTIONS

Problem

South dealer • Both vul

You, West, hold:

♠ —
♥ K Q J 10 8
♦ A Q 9 4
♣ 10 7 6 5

South	West	North	East
1 ♣	1 ♥	1 ♠	2 ♥
2 ♠	?		

Your call.

Solution

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

South	West	North	East
1 ♣	1 ♥	1 ♠	2 ♥
2 ♠	3 ♦	4 ♠	5 ♦
pass	pass	double	(all pass)

Opening lead: ♠Q

Using the principle of "show and tell," West bid 3♦ at his second turn and East had no problem bidding 5♦ over North's

jump to game. As you can see, 11 tricks were cold, so East-West scored +750. The best North-South could do was save in 5♠ down one, which would have been a poor score for them anyway, because most North-South pairs were allowed to play in 4♠, making 620 or 650.

The theory behind "show and tell" is that in competitive auctions, it's best to honestly describe your hand so partner can evaluate his cards and know what to do later. West expected to hear the opponents bid spades again, and wanted his partner to have as much information as possible so he would know what to do. With a different type of hand, say ♠ x x x ♥ A x x x ♦ x x ♣ J x x x, East would know to defend 4♠, lead diamonds, and perhaps take two diamonds and a diamond ruff, plus a heart trick, to set their game.

Lesson: In a competitive auction, after you and partner have bid and raised a suit, you should try to describe your hand further by bidding a second suit.

Bulldogs Vs. Stallions

by Pamela Granovetter

The Spingold Final (third quarter)



Chicago, Summer Nationals, Spingold Teams Final — At the end of the half, Jimmy Cayne was reported to have given Nick Nickell a lift home (they both live in Manhattan) ... in his private jet. That left the Nickell Bulldogs (Hamman-Soloway and Meckwell) to fight it out with Cayne's

Italian Stallions (Versace-Lauria and Fantoni-Nunes). It was expected to be quite a "rumble"!

The battle started with a push when Fantoni-Nunes and Meckwell, sitting North-South, both reached a 25-point 3NT game that failed by two tricks:

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

Closed Room:			
West	North	East	South
Versace	Meckstroth	Lauria	Rodwell
—	1 ♥	pass	1 ♠
pass	2 ♣	pass	2 ♦
pass	2 NT	pass	3 NT
(all pass)			

Open Room:			
West	North	East	South
Soloway	Fantoni	Hamman	Nunes
—	1 NT	pass	2 ♥
pass	2 ♠	pass	3 NT
(all pass)			

Perhaps more delicate bidding would have led to a 5-2 major-suit contract. In the Open room, the Stallions had no chance after North's 1NT opening. But Meckwell had a chance if, after the fourth-suit forcing bid of 2♦, Meckstroth had bid 2♠ instead of 2NT, or if Rodwell had shown his club support over 2NT with a 3♣ raise. In any case, stallions and bulldogs do not play 5-2 fits when 3NT is possible.

On Board 2, the Bulldogs' 7-imp lead dwindled to 4 when both pairs reached a second unmakeable 3NT game, down an extra vulnerable trick for Nickell when Meckstroth chose to eschew a finesse that was working:

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

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

East
 ♠ 2
 ♥ J 4 3
 ♦ K 5 4 3
 ♣ K 10 5 3 2

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

Open Room:

West	North	East	South
Soloway	Fantoni	Hamman	Nunes
—	—	pass	2 ♦
pass	2 ♠	pass	2 NT
pass	3 ♦	pass	3 NT

(all pass)

The Fantoni-Nunes two-bids show a good 10-14 points. Soloway did well to avoid the heart lead, which would have given the contract. He led a spade instead. Declarer

won in dummy, finessed diamonds, led a spade to dummy (bad news there), cashed spades and led a diamond for a finesse again. But diamonds did not split either, so he had only eight tricks.

Closed Room:

West	North	East	South
Versace	Meckstroth	Lauria	Rodwell
—	—	pass	1 ♦
1 ♠	pass	pass	2 ♦
pass	3 NT	(all pass)	

Here North was declarer, so the defenders took the first five club tricks. Then East shifted to a heart. Declarer went up with the ace, cashed five spades and led a diamond to the ace, playing West to hold the ♥K and ♦K (which would have been singleton all along).

The Bulldogs proceeded to pick up 16 imps on the next three boards when Versace-Lauria bid three no-play games, while Soloway-Hamman defended once and stopped in partscores twice to go plus on all three boards. Here they are:

The Bulldogs

Nick Nickell - Dick Freeman
 Paul Soloway - Bob Hamman
 Eric Rodwell - Jeff Meckstroth



The Stallions

Jimmy Cayne - Michael Seamon
 Fulvio Fantoni - Claude Nunes
 Alfredo Versace - Lorenzo Lauria

Board 3 • South dealer • E-W vul

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

South	West	North	East
Rodwell	Versace	Meckstroth	Lauria
1 NT	pass	pass	2 ♦ (majors)
2 NT	pass	3 ♣	3 ♠
pass	4 ♠	(all pass)	

Board 4 • West dealer • All vul

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

West	North	East	South
Versace	Meckstroth	Lauria	Rodwell
1 ♥	pass	1 ♠	double
2 ♥	pass	2 NT	pass
3 NT	(all pass)		

Board 5 • North dealer • N-S vul

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

West	North	East	South
Versace	Meckstroth	Lauria	Rodwell
—	pass	1 ♣	pass
2 ♣ (inv)	pass	2 ♦	pass
3 NT	(all pass)		

Opening lead: ♣J

The Bulldogs' lead was up to 20 when Fantoni-Nunes turned the tide on Board 6 by reaching a remarkable 6♠ contract with:

North

♠ Q 7 6 4
 ♥ K
 ♦ Q J 10 7 6 5
 ♣ 7 2

South

♠ A K 10 3
 ♥ Q 6 3
 ♦ A K
 ♣ A 5 4 3

They took 15 bids to get there, and very few people on this earth understand what the bids meant. With spades and diamonds both breaking 3-2, there was no killing lead and no defense to stop the slam, so that was +980 for Cayne. At the other table, the auction was a pedestrian puppet Stayman auction:

Closed Room:

West	North	East	South
Versace	Meckstroth	Lauria	Rodwell
—	—	pass	2 NT
pass	3 ♣	pass	3 ♦
pass	3 ♥*	pass	3 ♠
pass	4 ♠	(all pass)	

*shows four spades

That was a well-deserved 11 imps for the Stallions, and the Bulldog lead was down to 9.

Lauria-Versace freely overbid (yet again) on Board 7, reaching a three-spade contract that should have been beaten, while Hamman-Soloway stopped safely in two. But Rodwell allowed himself to be squeezed, to lose an imp instead of gaining 5. Here is the hand:

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

Open Room:

South	West	North	East
Nunes	Soloway	Fantoni	Hamman
pass	pass	2 ♥	pass
pass	2 ♠	(all pass)	

Hamman (East) decided to pass out his partner's balancing 2♠ bid, since Soloway was a passed hand.

Closed Room:

South	West	North	East
Rodwell	Versace	Meckstroth	Lauria
pass	pass	1 ♥	1 NT
pass	2 ♥	pass	2 ♠
pass	3 ♣	pass	3 ♠
(all pass)			

At this table, Lauria made a light overcall of 1NT and Versace invited game, transferring to spades and then to diamonds. Rodwell led the ♥9.

Lauria won the queen with the ace and led a trump to North's king. Meckstroth cashed the ♥K and led a third heart to let his partner ruff away the jack. Declarer overruffed in dummy and led a club to the king and ace. At this point, Rodwell returned a club, but had to switch to diamonds to defeat the contract.

Declarer won the club in hand, throwing a diamond, and led another round of trump to North's ace, as South threw a club. Meckstroth returned his last trump, and Rodwell threw another club. Declarer won in dummy and led another trump, throwing a diamond from his hand. South was squeezed.

If South had returned a diamond when in with the ♣A, his partner can return another diamond safely when in with the trump ace, breaking up the squeeze. It's not an easy play to find, since Rodwell could not be sure of the distribution. Perhaps his partner held three clubs and one less spade. He needed the ♦J-9 doubleton in the North hand, specifically, for the diamond shift to work.

The Stallions took the lead on Board 8 when Versace-Lauria's aggressive bidding finally paid off, but it was really a strange systemic triumph:

West dealer North
 None vul ♠ A 2
 ♥ 7 5 2
 ♦ Q 10 7 2
 ♣ Q 9 7 3

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

East
 ♠ J 10 9 8 5
 ♥ 9 6 3
 ♦ J 9 8 4
 ♣ J

South
 ♠ 7 4
 ♥ 10 8 4
 ♦ K 6 5 3
 ♣ 10 8 5 4

Open Room:

West	North	East	South
Soloway	Fantoni	Hamman	Nunes
1 ♣ (strong)	pass	1 ♦	pass
2 ♥	pass	3 ♣	pass
3 ♠	pass	4 ♠	(all pass)

Handling monster 4-4-4-1 hands has always been difficult. In the Soloway-Hamman auction, Soloway jump shifted to hearts, Hamman gave a double negative and Soloway showed his spades. Hamman

was left with little alternative but to raise to 4♠ and Soloway might have been facing four small spades, so he passed.


Closed Room:

West	North	East	South
Versace	Meckstroth	Lauria	Rodwell
2 ♣	pass	2 ♦	pass
2 ♥	pass	2 ♠	pass
2 NT	pass	3 ♥	pass
4 ♣	pass	4 ♠	pass
4 NT	pass	5 ♣	pass
6 ♠	(all pass)		


In the Versace-Lauria auction, Versace's 2♥ rebid was meant as "Kokish," hearts or a giant 2NT hand. Lauria relayed with 2♠ and found out that his partner held a forcing 2NT type. He then transferred to 3♠! Versace was thrilled, cuebidding 4♣ and then Blackwooding into slam for 980.

The next four boards saw two pushes and two overtrick imps go Nickell's way, to reduce the Stallions' lead to a single imp. Then, on board 13, Paul Soloway made an amazing bid, which pushed his opponents into a slam off two cashing aces!


Open Room




Paul Soloway




Fulvio Fantoni



Bob Hamman





Claude Nunes

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

Open Room:

West	North	East	South
Soloway	Fantoni	Hamman	Nunes
—	1 ♦	2 ♣	2 ♥
pass	3 ♣	3 ♠	double
5 ♣*	5 ♦	pass	5 ♥
pass	5 ♠	pass	5 NT
pass	6 ♥	(all pass)	

*the amazing bid

Soloway led the ♣A and followed up with a spade shift. Down one.

Closed Room:

West	North	East	South
Versace	Meckstroth	Lauria	Rodwell
—	1 ♦ (1)	3 ♣ (2)	3 ♦ (3)
3 ♠	4 ♥	4 ♠	double

(all pass)

- (1) Precision, could be short
- (2) the black suits
- (3) transfer to hearts

Versace-Lauria exercised damage control on this board when East's 3♣ bid showed both black suits, allowing East-West to steal the hand from Meckwell. This was down one, 200 to North-South. Meckwell did nothing seriously wrong, but +200 isn't such a satisfactory result when you are cold for +650.... Still, Soloway's bold 5♣ bid was good for 7 imps and the lead.

The Stallions got back two overtrick imps on the next board to reduce the Bulldogs' lead to 4. Then Hamman and Lauria picked up at favorable vul:

♠ Q 8 4 3 ♥ Q 6 ♦ A 7 3 ♣ J 9 7 5

South	West	North	East
pass	1 ♠	2 ♥	2 ♠
4 ♥	4 ♠	5 ♥	?

What would you call?

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

Open Room:

South	West	North	East
Nunes	Soloway	Fantoni	Hamman
pass	1 ♠	2 ♥	2 ♠
4 ♥	4 ♠	5 ♥	(all pass)

Hamman passed 5♥, a touch-and-go contract, and led a spade. Soloway falsecarded, winning the ♠A and returning the 6. Fantoni, North, ruffed, drew trumps, led a club to the king and the ♦J to the 9, 2 and ace. Making 650.

If Soloway covers the ♦J, North has to guess if Soloway's other diamond is the 9 or 7. But Soloway hoped North had four diamonds and three clubs, and that he had fooled Fantoni with his spade plays. He therefore played the ♦9 on the jack, expecting Fantoni to go up with the king. Fantoni, however, had only three diamonds and was forced to play Soloway for the ♦Q to make his contract.


Closed Room:

South	West	North	East
Rodwell	Versace	Meckstroth	Lauria
pass	1 ♠	2 ♥	2 ♠
4 ♥	4 ♠	5 ♥	5 ♠
pass	pass	double	(all pass)


Meanwhile, Lauria made the winning 5♠ bid with the East cards. After a normal high-heart opening lead, 5♠ doubled could not be beaten more than two tricks, -300, so that was a swing of 8 imps for Cayne.

The Stallions picked up another two overtrick imps on Board 16 to lead by 6 with 16 to go. Conclusion next month.


Closed Room




Alfredo Versace




Jeff Meckstroth



Eric Rodwell



Lorenzo Lauria





Diary of the World Mixed Pairs

by Matthew Granovetter



Part V — Is it Bridge or Matchpoints?

Verona, Italy — It's the final session of the World Mixed Pairs. I left off last issue reporting another poor result on board 9 for Karen McCallum and me. We went into the final session in second position, but with half the boards played our score is 48% for the session, which is not a way to win a world championship. We need to make a strong move.

At this point, an Italian, soon to be revealed as a lucky kibitzer, sits down behind me. Franco Broccoli, an Italian journalist, gives me a big smile. I wonder if this means we are still in contention despite our bad performance so far.

On board 10, we bulldoze our way into a 24-point 3NT. The bidding is the thing:

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

West	North	East	South
—	—	pass	pass
pass	1 ♠	pass	2 ♣
pass	2 NT	pass	3 NT
(all pass)			

I open 1♠ in fourth seat with my 13-count. Over 3-card Drury, I rebid 2NT, since this is matchpoints. Partner raises to 3NT. Notice we both have nice spot cards after you discount our lowest cards. I hold three 4's and a 2, then all high ones, and she holds one 2 and three 3's, and then mostly high ones. Our two decisions, mine to rebid 2NT and hers to raise are based on these spot cards rather than just point counting. East leads her fourth-best club and I win in hand and clear that suit. East wins and returns a safe club. I then attack spades and when they broke 3-3, I have six black-suit tricks and two red aces. West, on lead, has to play a red suit to my advantage, so I have nine tricks.

For bidding this game, we receive an 85% score. All the strict point-counters stopped in 2NT. The Italian journalist, Broccoli, smiles again and puts up four fingers: "Four card majors?" "No," I reply. "Fourth seat."

On board 11, the European Mixed Pairs champs Helness and Helness (husband and wife) came to our table. But I don't know it. As I've written, the women were sitting on the same side of the screens as the men, to our left, and since I did not recognize most of the European women, I rarely knew if

my opponents were strong players. I pick up in third chair, neither side vul:

♠ K 10 6 5 3 ♥ A 9 ♦ A K 9 ♣ Q J 5

When the bidding tray comes across, I see that my partner has opened another famous McCallum two-bid, this time in hearts. This 2♥ bid shows 4-10 points with typically five hearts with any side distribution. This leaves me in a quandary. I have a fine looking 17 HCP and we could be on for 3NT if she has a nice 8 points or so. But if I asked her how strong she is, by bidding 2NT, where will we land if she is weak? Back in 3♥! Ugh. I do not want to play a 5-2 fit at the three level. Besides, she might

even hold three spades with me. So I bid 2♠, which we play as 0-18 (yes, that's the range) and four or more spades (if we hold a singleton heart we must scoot out of 2♥ to a hopefully better contract).

This 2♠ is not forcing, but partner is supposed to raise with support. (Perhaps you find this convention a little strange — welcome to the club — but remember, this is a convention geared mostly toward matchpoints, and hurting *their* bidding. Sometimes it hurts ours!)

Before I know it the tray is lifted and I am in 2♠. This is the full deal:

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

South	West	North	East
2♥	pass	2♠	(all pass)

Please do not give this magazine to your children. They might see this auction. What has gone wrong? Why have we missed our 8-card heart fit and are instead playing in a 5-1 spade fit? Well, Karen didn't really have a 3♥ opening bid, and since I removed 2♥ to 2♠, there was a good chance I held a singleton heart, so she did not want to go up a level to a possible 6-1

fit. Therefore, she left me to play in spades, hoping I held six of them. A flaw in the system?

Never mind. Matchpoint mavens, please examine the cards. How many tricks do you make in hearts? Answer: nine. The ♠A is offside. The ♦Q is offside. And there is a heart loser and the ♣A to lose. Therefore, those pairs who reach 4♥, a most reasonable contract, will be minus 50. Meanwhile, I am in a cozy 2♠, and if I can make 110, I score more matchpoints than those scientific players in 4♥. (Is this madness, or what?)

Anyway, a diamond is led. I win the trick in dummy and lead a spade to the king. No luck, it loses to the ace. (No! That *was* luck!) In fact, I should have put in the ♠10, since I need the ace to be *offside* to score any matchpoints on this board. East returns a club to the ace and a club. I win in hand and lead another spade. West clears clubs, but I come to hand in hearts to lead still another spade. I triumphantly table my hand, conceding four trump tricks and the ♣A, plus 110. "All the key cards were offside," I comment to Broccoli, "which is good." As

I key in the result on the computer scoring device called "bridgemate" (each table has one, connected wirelessly to the main computer), we see that we are receiving about a 45% score. This is not bad for playing a partscore in a 5-1 fit when we belong in game in a 6-2 fit. "This is not bridge," I say to Broccoli, "this is matchpoints." He smiles again and writes it down in Italian.

On the second board of the round, I pick up: ♠ 2 ♥ J 7 5 3 2 ♦ Q J 6 ♣ 9 8 4 2.

I figure I can handle this "mitt" better than the previous one, since I won't be in the auction. Wrong again. We are vul vs.

not, and RHO opens 1♠. I pass and LHO raises to 2♠. My partner doubles for take-out and RHO bids 3♠. I am glad, because otherwise I'd be in another quandary. I generally do not play lebehsohl, and I'm not sure if, when you are playing it (which we are), whether it applies here. In this situation is 2NT lebensohl or a scramble to find the best trump suit? (Beats me.)

Luckily, I have the opportunity to make a normal pass. LHO passes but when the tray comes back, I see 3NT from my partner, pass on my right. I remove this to 4♥. Everyone passes. The full hand is:

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

am ready for an aperitif, if not for the fact that there are five more rounds.

On board 13 we get some new opponents, and I pick up:

♠ J 10 7 6 5 4 ♥ K 3 ♦ Q 6 5 2 ♣ 6

I am first seat, all vul. Another quandary. I would never open 2♠ with these cards normally. But our style is a bit more loose, and I do have some shape, so I decide to do it. It goes pass, pass, 2NT. I pass and my RHO bids 3♦, all pass. Somehow, this doesn't look too bad. Did my RHO think 2NT was for the minors? The full deal:

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

As you can see, this contract is cold and they have missed the opportunity for a sacrifice, as I score 620 for 75%. No doubt the Helness's were so dazzled by our 2♠ contract on the first board that they didn't trust our bidding on the second board. The journalist scribbles something down, and I



Gunn and Tor Helness of Norway

North dealer North (MG)
 All vul ♠ J 10 7 6 5 4
 ♥ K 3
 ♦ Q 6 5 2
 ♣ 6

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

South (KM)
 ♠ 8 2
 ♥ J 9 8
 ♦ K 8
 ♣ A K 10 5 4 2

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

My partner leads the ♣A and must make a decision when East falsecards with the ♣8.* She does not know who has the singleton club. In a case like this, it might be right to underlead in clubs, but that may also kill one of partner's trump tricks. Karen decides I am probably the one with the singleton. She cashes the ace, on which I discard a spade, and then switches to a spade to attack dummy's entries. My ♠10 forces the queen, revealing my robust suit.

Declarer is anxious to draw trumps now and, figuring I must have something for my bid, leads a diamond to the ace and a diamond, rather than finessing through my partner's honor. This works well . . . for

*This play is not as easy as it looks. In a pair event, especially an international one, declarer must check our convention card to see if we play standard or upside-down carding before making this falsecard. As it happened, our convention cards had been lost by this point in the tournament! Declarer simply made the natural falsecard and it worked.

us. My partner wins the ♦K and continues spades. Declarer is in dummy for the last time. She leads a heart to her queen and the ♦J, but I take the trick and return a heart. She draws trump and concedes one heart trick for down one. Plus 100 is worth 88% to us. I turn to Broccoli and he whispers: "matchpoints ees not bridge."

On the next board of the round my LHO opens an 11-count and gets into hot water:

East dealer North (MG)
 None vul ♠ K 5 3
 ♥ —
 ♦ Q 8 6 5 3
 ♣ Q J 10 6 3

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

South (KM)
 ♠ Q 10 8
 ♥ J 9 8 7 6
 ♦ K 7 2
 ♣ A 8

West	North	East	South
—	—	1 NT (11-14)	pass
2 ♣	pass	2 ♥	pass
4 ♥	(all pass)		

If East had only known that had she passed, my partner was about to open 2♥!

Well, this is better. Karen begins with a diamond to my queen and ace. Declarer tries a spade to the jack. I win the king and come through in clubs. We score one spade, one diamond, two clubs and a heart trick, for down two, but only a 60% score. Many pairs are in 3♦ doubled our way, making three, when the bidding starts pass, pass, 1♠, 2NT.

Meanwhile, we have moved up from 48% to 54% after only five boards, and there are eight more boards remaining. On board 15, I make a subtle mistake and my opponent takes full advantage:

South dealer	North (MG)		
N-S vul	♠ A J 3		
	♥ 9 7 6		
	♦ A J 10 9 7		
	♣ A K		
West		East	
♠ K 5		♠ Q 10 9	
♥ K 5 2		♥ A 10 4	
♦ Q 6 4 3 2		♦ K	
♣ 8 5 4		♣ Q 10 9 7 6 2	
	South (KM)		
	♠ 8 7 6 4 2		
	♥ Q J 8 3		
	♦ 8 5		
	♣ J 3		
South	West	North	East
pass	pass	1 ♦	2 ♣
pass	3 ♣	(all pass)	

My hand is a touch too good for a 14-17 notrump, so I open 1♦. But this allows East to overcall 2♣ and buy the hand in 3♣. Maybe East would have competed to 3♣ over 1NT but maybe not. Karen leads the ♦8 to my ace. I return a diamond. Declarer discards a heart, winning in dummy, and leads a trump. Here's my error: I win with the king! I then lead a third diamond. Declarer, who knows where the ♣A is, trumps in with the queen and leads another club, crashing our honors. If I win the first trump trick with the ace, however, she may play me for A-J doubleton. Minus 110 is worth only 20% for us. I give my opponent a "well done" and pick up my next hand: ♠ A 10 8 ♥ K 7 6 4 2 ♦ 9 4 3 ♣ J 6

My RHO opens 1♦. We are favorable, and I am annoyed with myself from the previous board, so I overcall 1♥, something I rarely do with such dreck, at any vulnerability. LHO bids 2♦ and my partner cue-bids 3♦. Gulp. I retreat to 3♥ and it goes all pass. Here is the hand (board 16):

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

I have no idea how to play it. We have 20 combined HCP and LHO has shown three with the lead. She probably has one other significant honor. I can hold my trump losers to one if RHO has a doubleton ace, but then I can't ruff a diamond in dummy. So I resign myself to two trump

losers, one diamond and one club. Can I possibly lose zero spade tricks? If the spade suit is frozen (LHO has the jack and RHO the king), I might have time to develop two club tricks in dummy for discards. But how? If LHO has honor fourth of clubs, I can't do it. If LHO has three clubs to an honor, she can cover my jack. Wait. What if RHO has four clubs to the king and thinks that I have the queen doubleton in my hand. . . .

While all these possibilities run through my mind, I win the ♦A and return a diamond to LHO's jack. Now LHO starts to think. She switches to the ♠J. I cover with the queen, king and ace. That could be a doubleton spade, so I lead a trump to the queen, starting to draw trump. RHO wins the ace and returns a spade. I put in the

8, but it loses to the 9. Good news: LHO returns a third spade and my 10 wins, RHO following. I cash the ♥K, ruff a diamond and play dummy's last spade, discarding a club. All they get is one spade, one diamond and two hearts. I never used the club suit after all! The full hand:

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

Scoring 140 is worth 79%, giving us about average for the round.

On board 17, I pick up as dealer, none vul: ♠ K Q 8 4 ♥ 9 6 5 4 ♦ K Q 8 3 2 ♣ —

I open 1♦. (OK, I have long ago left behind all remnants of bridge — at this point, I am playing strictly matchpoints.) It goes 2♦ on my left for the majors, 2♠ by partner, showing a good hand with diamonds, 3♣ on my right, introducing a new suit, clubs, into the picture. I pass, which we are playing is the weakest action in any competitive auction. And when the tray comes back, partner has doubled:

West	North	East	South
—	1♦	2♦	2♠
3♣	pass	pass	double
pass	?		

Maybe I should pass this, but I cannot bring myself to do it. I retreat to 3♦ and it goes all pass. The ♣6 is led:

Board 17 (rotated):

	Dummy		
	♠ 9		
	♥ J 10 8		
	♦ A J 9 6		
	♣ K Q J 8 2		
LHO		RHO	
♠ A 10 7 6 5 2		♠ J 3	
♥ K Q 7 3 2		♥ A	
♦ 5		♦ 10 7 4	
♣ 6		♣ A 10 9 7 5 4 3	
	MG		
	♠ K Q 8 4		
	♥ 9 6 5 4		
	♦ K Q 8 3 2		
	♣ —		
MG	LHO	KM	RHO
1♦	2♦	2♠	3♣
pass	pass	double	pass
3♦	pass	pass (!)	pass

It was a good pass of 3♦ by my partner, don't you think? Three clubs doubled would be destroyed with the ♠K lead but barely down one after a diamond lead. Anyway, in 3♦ I put up the ♣K and East lets me win it. I lead a spade to the king and ace. West gets off lead with the ♥K, crashing partner's ace. On a low club return, I ruff high, draw trump, ruff out the ♣A and give up a heart, scoring 130 for 83%. You don't need to get numbers at matchpoints, you only need to make your partscores.

Well, I shouldn't say this. At one table, where Jill and Bobby Levin are North-South, they defend 6♣ doubled, down 1400 for 100% of the matchpoints. More important, they are climbing in the standings....

On the next board, my partner holds:
 ♠ 6 5 4 ♥ 10 7 4 2 ♦ K Q 3 ♣ Q 9 5

The opponents bid clubs, hearts and spades, landing in 3NT. Karen naturally leads a top diamond. Dummy has jack-fourth and declarer has ace-fourth! So we are minus 460 instead of 430 for a 20% score. It's another average round and we are hovering between 53 and 54% for the session, not enough.

There are two rounds to go when board 19 is put on the table. I hold, third seat favorable: ♠ A K 10 6 5 ♥ — ♦ Q 10 7 5 3 ♣ 8 3 2.

My partner opens 1♥ and the next hand bids 2♣. What should I do?

I can overbid with 2♠ or make a negative double. I choose double and my partner rebids 2♦. Then RHO bids 3♣. I check the vulnerability again. They are vul and we are not. I can double again, hoping

to get a number against 3♣ or I can raise diamonds, or bid spades. It isn't clear how many diamonds partner has. She could even hold three of them if she is 2-5-3-3 shape.

I'm not sure what to do but for some reason it pops in my head to ask myself: What would I do playing bridge? (Rather than matchpoints.) Well, at bridge, when you hold an ace-king suit, a void, and five-card support for partner, you jump. So I jump to 4♦, the bridge bid. When the tray comes back, my partner has cuebid 5♣!

South	West	North	East
1 ♥	2 ♣	double	pass
2 ♦	3 ♣	4 ♦	pass
5 ♣	pass	?	

This is more interesting. She must hold the ace of clubs for her bid and something decent in diamonds. So I jump again to 6♦. This is the deal:

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

slam. West leads the ♥A. Karen can make 13 tricks by crossruffing, but makes 12 by drawing trump and running the ♠J. (This is also a good line of play for 13 tricks, finessing through the overcaller.) Plus 920 is good enough for a 90% score. This board really picks up our spirits, as more kibitzers sit down to watch the last few hands....

On the second board of the round I pick up: ♠ K Q J ♥ A K 6 2 ♦ A ♣ Q 9 7 6 2.

All vul, my RHO opens 2♠, showing 5-5 spades and a minor. I overcall 2NT, not without some misgivings, since a takeout double might work better. What do you think? My partner raises to 3NT, and everyone passes. I'm fairly sure RHO's minor is diamonds, and I hope for a spade lead. Instead I get a heart lead!

As you can see, she has her 5♣ cuebid in context of her previous minimum 2♦ rebid. It's really a great cuebid on the way to 5♦ and we reach a remarkable 22 point

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

The ♥Q lead is not a problem for me. I drive out the ♠A and claim 10 tricks, plus 630 for an 80% score. East thought her partner held spades and clubs!

With one round to play our score just zoomed up to over 56% for the session. Not only that, but Karen's regular partner, Lynn Baker sits down behind her and just as we finish the auction to the first board of the round, the director comes over and hands out the percentage sheets for the first 12 rounds.

Board 21	North (MG)	
North dealer	♠ 7	
N-S vul	♥ A Q 10 8 5 2	
	♦ Q J 9 8	
	♣ Q 3	
West		East
♠ A J 10 4		♠ Q 6 5
♥ K J 7 4		♥ 6 3
♦ 6 5		♦ 7 4 2
♣ J 6 4		♣ K 8 7 5 2
	South (KM)	
	♠ K 9 8 3 2	
	♥ 9	
	♦ A K 10 3	
	♣ A 10 9	

find this amusing, thinking I am praying for my partner's declarer play.

Meanwhile, Lynn Baker takes the percentage sheet from the director and sees our names on top — we are in first position with only these two boards to play, and she blurts out: "Look, Kate, you're in first!" Just what Karen needs when she is about to declare a close 3NT contract!

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

Karen plays low on the club lead and wins the king with the ace. She leads a heart to the queen, cashes the ace and leads another heart, hoping for a 3-3 break or doubleton heart honor. Good technique, but it isn't there. West, however, has a tough decision to make upon winning the ♥J. Notice that he has nothing good to play. If he gets out a diamond, declarer can set up hearts and score 10 tricks. If West gets out a low club to the queen, declarer can still make nine tricks by leading a heart. But would she? We'll never know. West tries a spade, hoping his partner holds the ♠K. I don't blame him. Karen scoops up the trick and runs home with nine tricks, plus 600, worth 62%.

I have a Trent style weak two-bid, but a McCallum style one-bid. Since I am partnering McCallum, I open one. West leads the ♣4. I am finally dummy after a long spell of hands, and I take the moment to read from my Book of Psalms as I pull the cards from dummy. Some of the kibitzers

The last board is placed on the table. I pick up, favorable:

♠ 9 4 2 ♥ A 3 2 ♦ A K 6 ♣ J 9 5 2.

It goes 1♠ on my left, pass, 2♠ on my right. Should I make a pre-balance? I decide quickly to keep quiet, sticking with the "bridge" strategy, rather than "matchpoint" strategy. LHO thinks and then comes out with 3♠. Partner passes and RHO bids 4♠. Partner leads the ♣8. The full hand:

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

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

Opening lead: ♣8

We manage to take our four tricks for +100 and 81%. That makes our session total 57.42% My wife, who coached me for three months prior to this event, and who has just finished her last round with Bob Hamman, comes over to see how we've done. We are still in a daze from all the difficult hands, and we don't know the final score but the director nearby, keeping score on his computer, holds up a one. Then another director comes by and says it's not official but he thinks we are first. We are in shock, despite everything, since it's just too much of a leap to go from playing your hardest to simply being at the mercy of the scoreboard and then hearing that you are first. And it really does not sink in. Suddenly there are hugs and kisses (including Broccoli), photos, etc., etc., and soon the scores are posted officially (with percentage averages for the three final sessions):

1. MCCALLUM - GRANOVETTER 59.28%
2. LEVIN - LEVIN 58.75%
3. STANSBY - STANSBY 58.47%
4. BROWN - MCGANN 58.07%
5. HENNER-WELLAND - JACOBUS 57.79%
6. GROMOVA - GROMOV 57.71%
7. SANBORN - COHEN 57.48%
8. ALLOUCHE - GAVIARD - VENTIN 56.75%
9. MANCUSO - BAZE 56.39%
10. GEMIGNANI - CIMA 56.37%

There were no more hands to be played and it was champagne for dinner.



Lew and Jo Anna Stansby



Jill and Bobby Levin



Karen McCallum and MG



Kantar's Korner

by Eddie Kantar

I have a pen pal of sorts, Dr. Ulrich Auhagen, who lives in Dusseldorf. He's a well known bridge player and bridge author. Try this defensive gem he sent me (imp scoring):

East dealer North
 All vul ♠ K 10 7 3
 ♥ 6 4 2
 ♦ 5 4 3 2
 ♣ J 4

West (you)
 ♠ Q J 9 8 6 2
 ♥ 9 7 6 5
 ♦ 9 8 6
 ♣ —



West	North	East	South
—	—	3 ♣	double
pass	3 ♠	pass	4 ♣
pass	4 ♦	pass	6 ♥
(all pass)			

You decide to lead the ♠Q, which rides around to the ace, partner playing the 5, standard count. Declarer cashes the ♥A-K and you follow up the line, showing an even number, while partner follows with the ♥3, and then, after some thought, discards the ♦Q. When declarer continues with two more high hearts, partner discards the J and 10 of diamonds, while dummy discards the ♠7. Next, declarer plays the ♦A. How do you foresee the defense? (Solution coming up.)

Keycard Blackwood Korner

Question: Can you ask for the queen of trump if you are looking at it?

Answer: Yes! Suppose you are responder with: ♠ A x ♥ K x x x x x ♦ A J ♣ A Q x

Partner	You
1 ♥	2 NT (Jacoby, agrees hearts)
4 ♥ (bal minimum)	4 NT (RKB 1430)
5 ♣ (one)	5 ♦ (queen ask)

If partner has the ♥Q, which is likely, he will show his cheapest king in the response. This will give you a head start in finding out which kings, if any, partner has. If partner happens to bid 5♠, you bid 5NT, asking partner for any other king he may have. Partner happened to have: ♠ K Q J ♥ A Q J 10 x ♦ x x x ♣ x x.

After 5NT partner would bid 6♥, denying a minor-suit king.

* * *

Defense Solution: Partner, holding this hand: ♠ 5 4 ♥ 3 ♦ Q J 10 ♣ K 10 9 7 6 3 2, and suspecting you are void in clubs, has made three spectacular unblocks in diamonds to avoid being thrown in with the third round of the suit. If thrown in with a diamond, East has to lead a black card and give declarer the rest of the tricks. Declarer held: ♠ A ♥ A K Q J 10 ♦ A K 7 ♣ A Q 8 5

Now it's your turn to make two spectacular unblocks. You have to unblock the ♦9-8 under the A-K, allowing declarer to score the ♦7! A Greek Gift if there ever was one. Now declarer has to break clubs from his own hand and East winds up taking two club tricks. If South leads low to the jack, East wins and exits with the ♣10, the ♣9 becoming the setting trick. If South leads the ♣Q, East ducks and winds up taking two club tricks. Bravo West, Bravo East, and thank you, Dr. Auhagen. Ciao.



The Wizard of Aus in the Vanderbilt

by Ron Klinger

Australia's Ishmael Del'Monte shone in the Vanderbilt this year, where his team lost narrowly in the semi-finals. Here are some interesting deals from both semi-final matches.

On deal 10 each table played in 4♥ doubled. Only Del'Monte produced the killing defense as West. First we'll look at the other semi-final match:

West dealer ♠ 10 9 2
 All vul ♥ K
 ♦ 10 5 3
 ♣ A J 10 9 7 2

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

♠ J 5
 ♥ A J 10 7 6 5 4 2
 ♦ 6
 ♣ K 3

CHANG vs HOLLMAN

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

Opening lead: ♦K

East followed with the ♦7 and West continued with the ♦Q, a fatal move. Declarer ruffed, played a heart to the king, ruffed a diamond to hand and cashed the ♥A. The ♥Q did not fall, but declarer was still all right. He continued with the ♣K and a club to the queen and ace. The ♣J allowed South to discard a spade as West ruffed. South lost only one spade, one heart and one diamond for +790.

At the other table:

West	North	East	South
Grue	Zhao	Cheek	Fu
1 NT	double (1)	2 ♥ (2)	pass
2 ♠	pass	pass	4 ♥
pass	pass	double	(all pass)

(1) One-suiter, any suit

(2) Transfer to spades

Opening lead: ♠K

Failing to appreciate the danger of dummy's clubs, West switched to a trump at trick 2. Declarer played a club to the king, cashed the ♥A, followed by the ♣3, for the same discard of a spade loser. +790 and no swing.

Now Del'Monte's match:

West dealer ♠ 10 9 2

All vul ♥ K

♦ 10 5 3

♣ A J 10 9 7 2

♠ K Q 8

♥ Q 9 8

♦ K Q J 9 8

♣ Q 5



♠ A 7 6 4 3

♥ 3

♦ A 7 4 2

♣ 8 6 4

♠ J 5

♥ A J 10 7 6 5 4 2

♦ 6

♣ K 3

SHUGART vs WELLAND

West	North	East	South
<i>Welland</i>	<i>Shugart</i>	<i>Fallenius</i>	<i>Brogeland</i>
1 NT	pass	2 ♥ (1)	pass
2 ♠	pass	pass	4 ♥
pass	pass	double	(all pass)

(1) transfer to spades

Opening lead: ♦K

East played the ♦7 and West continued with the ♦J. Declarer ruffed and followed the same line of play as at the previous tables for +790.

At the other table:



Del'Monte

West	North	East	South
<i>Del'Monte</i>	<i>Stansby</i>	<i>Mittelman</i>	<i>Martel</i>
1 NT	pass	2 ♥ (1)	3 ♥
pass	pass	double (2)	pass
3 ♠	pass	pass	4 ♥
double	(all pass)		

(1) transfer to spades

(2) takeout

Opening lead: ♦K

East played the ♦2 (upside-down) and Del'Monte had to decide how to continue.

It does not matter whether you play low-encouraging or high-encouraging or give count signals, West can tell that a second round of diamonds is not attractive. With ♦A-x East would have overtaken the ♦K and returned a diamond. Therefore, assuming East has the ♦A on the bidding, it will be ♦A-x-x or ♦A-x-x-x. That means the defense will take two diamond tricks at most.

West can see a trump trick, one or two diamonds and so at least one spade trick is needed. Recognizing the palpable threat of dummy's clubs, Del'Monte shifted to the ♠K at trick 2. Declarer dropped the ♠J, but as East had played the ♠7, reverse count to show an odd number of spades, Del'Monte knew to continue with the ♠Q.

He then reverted to the ♦Q, ruffed, and waited to collect the ♥Q for one down. That was +200 and +14imps to SHUGART.

On board 17, Del'Monte and his partner, George Mittelman, were the only players to bid game at the four tables in play:

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



West	North	East	South
Stansby	Mittelman	Martel	Del'Monte
—	—	pass	1 ♦
pass	1 ♥	pass	1 NT
pass	3 NT	(all pass)	

Opening lead: ♣K

North's 3NT was certainly a vote of confidence. On the bidding you would think that West might have started with a spade lead. An unbid major is generally a more hopeful avenue than an unbid minor.

The ♣K opening lead was all that Del'Monte needed, especially when East contributed the 9. He won with the ♣A and played a diamond to the queen, which held. He then played a club, coming to nine tricks for +400 and +7 imps.

In the other semi-final both Souths opened 1♦ and rebid 1NT over 1♥. Then one North passed and one raised to 2NT. Both Wests led a diamond and declarer made 120.

On the next deal, board 29, from the same set, two North-South pairs reached game, but only Del'Monte was successful.

SHUGART vs WELLAND

West	North	East	South
Shugart	Fallenius	Brogeland	Welland
—	—	pass	1 ♣
1 ♦	double*	pass	1 ♥
pass	1 NT	(all pass)	

*hearts

Opening lead from East: ♠Q

Declarer took the ♠K in dummy and led a diamond. West rose with the ♦K and continued spades. Declarer finished with eight tricks for +120. At the other table:

Semi-finalists

SHUGART

- Rita Shugart of California
- Boye Brogeland of Norway
- Ishmael Del' Monte of Australia
- George Mitleman of Toronto
- Tedashi Teramoto of Japan

WELLAND

- Roy Welland of New York
- Bjorn Fallenius, of New York, formerly Sweden
- Chip Martel of California
- Lew Stansby of California
- Adam Zmudzinski of Poland
- Cezary Balicki of Poland

CHANG

- Fred Chang of New York
- Gunnar Hallberg of London
- Fu Zhong of China
- Jack Zhao of China
- Seymon Deutsch of Texas

HOLLMAN

- Robert Hollman of California
- Bruce Ferguson of Idaho
- Billy Cohen of California
- Ron Smith of California
- Curtis Cheek of Alabama
- Joe Grue of New York

East dealer
 All vul

♠ K 8 3 2
 ♥ K 5 4 3
 ♦ Q 8 5
 ♣ 5 3

♠ Q 7 4
 ♥ Q 9 8
 ♦ 9 7 4 3
 ♣ 9 6 4

♠ 10 9 6
 ♥ A J 10 7
 ♦ A K 10 6 2
 ♣ 7



♠ A J 5
 ♥ 6 2
 ♦ J
 ♣ A K Q J 10 8 2

At two tables in separate matches East opened the bidding, showing clubs, and South overcalled in diamonds. In each case East ended in 4♣, one down. At the other tables both Souths reached 4♥.

CHANG vs HOLLMAN

West	North	East	South
Zhao	Cheek	Fu	Grue
—	—	1 NT (1)	double (2)
pass	2 ♦ (3)	3 ♣	pass
pass	3 ♥	pass	4 ♥
(all pass)			

- (1) interesting bid
- (2) minor + major
- (3) Pick a major

Opening lead from East: ♣K

East switched to the ♦J, won in dummy. Next came the ♥K and a heart to the ten. West shifted to the ♠7, 2, jack, and declarer was one down for -100 and -5 imps.

SHUGART vs WELLAND

West	North	East	South
Stansby	Mittelman	Martel	Del'Monte
—	—	1 ♣	double
pass	3 ♣ (1)	4 ♣	4 ♥
(all pass)			

(1) invitational, both majors

Opening lead: ♣4

North's 3♣ was certainly not a timid effort. East won the club lead with the king and continued with the ♣A, ruffed. The 4♣ bid persuaded Del'Monte that East was the one more likely to be short in hearts and so the ♥A was followed by the ♥10, 9, 4, 6. The rest was smooth sailing for 10 tricks, +620 and +11 imps.

No Heart Beat for Ish

On this deal, board 39, the East players had a tough decision to make on defense. If you want to share their problem, put yourself in the East chair:

South dealer
 All vul

♠ J 4
 ♥ 8 6 4 3
 ♦ A 10 8
 ♣ A K 8 4



East (you)

♠ 8 7 5 2
 ♥ J 10 9
 ♦ Q 9
 ♣ J 9 5 2

The bidding, with East-West silent, goes 1♦ by South, 1♥, 1NT, 3NT. West leads the ♠10, 4, 2, queen, and South continues with the ♦4, 6, 10, queen. What do you play next as East?

South dealer	♠ J 4											
All vul	♥ 8 6 4 3											
	♦ A 10 8											
	♣ A K 8 4											
♠ A 10 9 3		<table border="1" style="border-collapse: collapse; margin: auto;"> <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		♠ 8 7 5 2
	N											
W		E										
	S											
♥ K Q 7			♥ J 10 9									
♦ K 6 3			♦ Q 9									
♣ 7 6 3			♣ J 9 5 2									
	♠ K Q 6											
	♥ A 5 2											
	♦ J 7 5 4 2											
	♣ Q 10											

SHUGART vs WELLAND

West	North	East	South
Zmudzinski	Brogeland	Balicki	Shugart
Teramoto	Stansby	Del'Monte	Martel
—	—	—	1 ♦
pass	1 ♥	pass	1 NT
pass	3 NT	(all pass)	

Japan's Teramoto (West) led the ♠10, 4, 2, queen and Martel played the ♦4, 6, 10, queen, giving Del'Monte a problem. Should he return partner's lead or switch to a heart?

The heart shift appeals because dummy bid hearts and has turned up with a worthless suit. On the other hand West might have five spades, perhaps even A-10-9-x-x. Now a spade return defeats the contract at once. Another possibility is that South started with ♠A-Q doubleton and it could be vital to knock out the ♠A before declarer has set up all his tricks.

Some players use "Smith Peters" to try to help each other in this kind of situation: On declarer's first play of a new suit, each defender plays high-low if they like the opening suit led or lowest if they have little enthusiasm for that suit. Some play "Reverse Smith," where low on declarer's new-suit play encourages the original suit and high is discouraging of the suit led: low like, high hate.

Smith Peters can be useful, but sometimes you cannot afford the relevant card; sometimes, as here, it is not clear whether you want the suit continued or a switch and sometimes you do not have a chance to signal, because you have to win the trick.

There is no doubt that Del'Monte had a dilemma as to the best play at trick three. He went for the spade return to the ace and Teramoto played a third spade. Declarer won and continued with a diamond to the ace and a third diamond. Teramoto took the ♦K and was able to cash a spade, but Martel had two spades, a heart, three diamonds and three clubs for +600.

Had Teramoto switched to a top heart after the ♠A, the contract might have been defeated. Declarer did have the double dummy line of winning the ♥A and playing the ♦J to pin the 9.

At the other table Zmudzinski (West) began with the ♠9, promising an interior sequence. Shugart won with the ♠J and played ♦A, 9, 2, 3, followed by the ♦8, queen, 4, 6. Balicki switched to the ♥J, ducked, and continued hearts. Shugart took the ♥A and knocked out the ♦K, but Zmudzinski could cash the ♥K and ♠A for one down and +12 imps.

In the Chang vs. Hollman match, at one table North (Ron Smith) rebid 2♣, check-back, South (Billy Cohen) showed three hearts, and North bid only 2NT. Then South bid 3NT. West (Hallberg) led the ♠10. Declarer led a diamond to the 10 and queen, and Chang (East) returned a spade. Hallberg won the ace and continued spades, so declarer had nine tricks. In fact, Cohen led another diamond to the 8 and 9, guarding against West holding four diamonds. At the other table in that match, the auction

was the same as in the first match. South won the ♠10 lead with the queen and led a diamond to the 10 and queen. There East shifted to the ♥J, West overtook with the queen and continued with the ♥K. When declarer led a diamond to the ace, he was down one.

Well, I Do Declare

On the following deals the player with the critical decision held both minors and had to decide whether to show both. On board 41 only one pair reached game and they were probably pushed there:

West dealer ♠ A K 6 2
 N-S vul ♥ J 7
 ♦ A J 9
 ♣ A Q 10 3

♠ 9 8 4 ♥ Q 10 9 8 6 4 2 ♦ Q ♣ 8 2	<table border="1" style="margin: auto;"> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">W</td><td style="padding: 2px;">N</td><td style="padding: 2px;">E</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">S</td><td style="padding: 2px;"></td><td style="padding: 2px;"></td></tr> </table>	W	N	E	S			♠ Q J 10 7 ♥ A 5 3 ♦ K 5 3 2 ♣ J 4	♠ 5 3 ♥ K ♦ 10 8 7 6 4 ♣ K 9 7 6 5
W	N	E							
S									

At three tables the bidding went:

West	North	East	South
Smith	Chang	Cohen	Hallberg
Brogeland	Balicki	Shugart	Zmudzinski
Stansby	Del' Monte	Martel	Teramoto
3 ♥	double	pass	4 ♣
(all pass)			

On the actual layout 5♣ is an easy make, thanks to the ♦Q with West. On the bidding it would have caused no surprise if East had begun with ♦K-Q-x-x. You can see why South would not be enthusiastic. The ♥K figures to be waste paper and that leaves South with very little.

If South did want to make sure of reaching the right game, 4NT in reply to the double could ask North to choose the longer minor. Each table made 11 tricks for +150.

Note East's pass over the double in the hope that South might bid spades. The one East who did bid 4♥ was soon regretting the decision:

West	North	East	South
Fu	Grue	Zhao	Cheek
3 ♥	double	4 ♥	pass
pass	double	pass	4 NT (1)
pass	5 ♣	(all pass)	

(1) Choose a minor, partner.

Opening lead: ♠Q

Declarer won, drew trumps ending in dummy and led a low diamond. That led to +600 and +10 imps.

On board 50 every pair reached game, but two were in the wrong one:

Teramoto



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



The unsuccessful auctions went:

West	North	East	South
<i>Fu</i>	<i>Grue</i>	<i>Zhao</i>	<i>Cheek</i>
<i>Stansby</i>	<i>Del'Monte</i>	<i>Martel</i>	<i>Teramoto</i>
—	pass	pass	2 NT
pass	3 NT	(all pass)	

At both tables West began with a spade and the defense was able to collect four spades and the ♣A for one down. The contract you want to be in is 5♣, but how can you find that after the 2NT opening?

The 3♠ response to 2NT is commonly used to show both minors, but usually with a suggestion of slam potential. It would have worked here as simply a minor-suit hand, game or better. South would bid 4♣ with such excellent club support and North would sign off in 5♣. With only moderate values and a semi-balanced hand it is not surprising that neither North bid 3♠.

The successful auctions started with a 1♣ opening:

West	North	East	South
<i>Smith</i>	<i>Chang</i>	<i>Cohen</i>	<i>Hallberg</i>
—	pass	pass	1 ♣
pass	2 ♣	pass	2 ♥
pass	3 ♣	pass	5 ♣
(all pass)			

Hallberg's 1♣ was natural and led to the best contract.

West	North	East	South
<i>Brogeland</i>	<i>Balicki</i>	<i>Shugart</i>	<i>Zmudzinski</i>
—	pass	pass	1 ♣ (1)
pass	1 ♦ (2)	pass	2 ♣
pass	3 ♣ (3)	pass	3 ♥ (4)
pass	5 ♣	(all pass)	

- (1) artificial, forcing
- (2) artificial, negative reply
- (3) diamond values and club support
- (4) stopper in hearts

Both tables made 11 tricks and collected 10 imps.

Minor Disagreement

With 16 boards to go, the Shugart team led Welland by 127-95. The lead was 128-105 when board 52 appeared:



Brogeland

East dealer ♠ 10 9 8 5 2
 All vul ♥ 8 7 6
 ♦ A K 10 6 2
 ♣ —

♠ 3 ♥ K 10 9 ♦ J 9 ♣ A J 9 7 6 4 3	<table border="1" style="margin: auto;"> <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		♠ 7 6 4 ♥ Q J 5 4 3 ♦ Q 7 ♣ K Q 10	♠ A K Q J ♥ A 2 ♦ 8 5 4 3 ♣ 8 5 2
	N											
W		E										
	S											

West	North	East	South
<i>Balicki</i>	<i>Shugart</i>	<i>Zmudzinski</i>	<i>Brogeland</i>
—	—	pass	1 ♦
3 ♣	3 ♦	(all pass)	

Opening lead: ♠3

Declarer won and drew trumps. When they were 2-2 he had 12 tricks for +190. What do you think of North's 3♦ response?

The 3♦ response here would be played as around 6-9 points and 4+ support. North has 7 HCP, but with a fifth trump and a void in the enemy suit, the hand is worth much more. Standard shortage count with a good trump fit is 5 for a void, 3 for a singleton and 1 for a doubleton. This has always seemed conservative to me. Since one trick equals three points, counting 3 for a singleton means you feel that only one extra trick can be scored by ruffing. I suggest to students that when they have 4+ trump support, count 6 for a void, 4 for a singleton and 2 for a doubleton.

Even counting the basic 5 for a void, the North hand is worth 12 points. With seven losers it would be pushy but not farfetched for North to jump to 5♦ over 3♣. If you are good enough to bid 5♦, then you must also have enough for 3♠, forcing, and

North might have done that.

Still, even if North-South had reached game, the loss would have been diminished only slightly. See what happened at the other table:

West	North	East	South
<i>Del'Monte</i>	<i>Martel</i>	<i>Teramoto</i>	<i>Stansby</i>
—	—	pass	1 ♠
2 ♣	4 ♣ (1)	double	4 ♥ (2)
5 ♣	5 ♦	pass	6 ♠
(all pass)			

(1) Game-force spade raise, short clubs
 (2) Cuebid

Opening lead: ♣A

After ruffing the lead in dummy, declarer played a spade to hand and ruffed another club. The ♦A was cashed, followed by another spade to hand and another club ruff. A heart to the ace allowed declarer to draw the last trump and with diamonds 2-2 he made 13 tricks for +1460 and +15 imps. Had North-South reached game at the other table the loss would still have been 13 imps.

In the other semi-final:

West	North	East	South
<i>Chang</i>	<i>Cohen</i>	<i>Hallberg</i>	<i>Smith</i>
—	—	pass	1 ♦
2 ♣	2 ♠	double (1)	4 ♠
(all pass)			

(1) For takeout, showing hearts

Opening lead: ♣K

Declarer made 12 tricks for +680. At the other table:

East dealer ♠ 10 9 8 5 2
 All vul ♥ 8 7 6
 ♦ A K 10 6 2
 ♣ —

♠ 3
 ♥ K 10 9
 ♦ J 9
 ♣ A J 9 7 6 4 3

W	N	E
S		

♠ 7 6 4
 ♥ Q J 5 4 3
 ♦ Q 7
 ♣ K Q 10

♠ A K Q J
 ♥ A 2
 ♦ 8 5 4 3
 ♣ 8 5 2

West	North	East	South
Grue	Zhao	Cheek	Fu
—	—	pass	1 ♦
2 ♣	2 ♠	double (1)	4 ♠
5 ♣	5 ♦	pass	5 ♠
(all pass)			

(1) For takeout, showing hearts

Opening lead: ♣K

Declarer made 13 tricks, following a similar line to Martel's for a one-imp gain. Note that both North players produced a 2-over-1 response with only 7 HCP. They were buoyed by excellent support for diamonds.

Finally, try this bidding problem. Suppose you are South in third seat, all vul, with: ♠ A 8 6 4 3 ♥ A 8 7 ♦ 10 8 ♣ K 7 6

West	North	East	South
—	pass	1 ♣	?

What would you do in this position?

The following advice was published in my daily newspaper column in Australia about a month before the Vanderbilt: "After pass from partner and an opening bid on your right, there is little value in overcalling on weak values or doubling with a balanced

11-12 points. You have little chance of winning the auction and, aside from the risk of a penalty, taking action simply allows declarer to place the cards more accurately."

The South players in the semi-finals of the 2006 Vanderbilt would have done well to heed this advice on board 61:

North dealer ♠ 10 5
 All vul ♥ J 10 6 5 2
 ♦ K Q 3
 ♣ 10 5 3

♠ K Q J 9 7 2
 ♥ 3
 ♦ 9 6 5 4
 ♣ 9 8

W	N	E
S		

♠ —
 ♥ K Q 9 4
 ♦ A J 7 2
 ♣ A Q J 4 2

♠ A 8 6 4 3
 ♥ A 8 7
 ♦ 10 8
 ♣ K 7 6

CHANG vs HOLLMAN

West	North	East	South
Hallberg	Smith	Chang	Cohen
—	pass	1 ♣	1 ♠
pass	pass	double	(all pass)

Hallberg led the ♥3: jack, queen, ace. Declarer played the ♦10 to the king, ducked. On the ♣3 from dummy, East rose with the ace and continued with the ♣Q,* taken by the king. South exited with a club,** West pitching a diamond.

East took the ♣J, cashed the ♥K, West discarding another diamond, and gave West a heart ruff. Then came the ♠K, ducked, the ♠J also ducked and the ♠Q. Declarer was able to score just one trick in each suit for down three and -800. At the other table:

*Cashing the ♥K first would be better. — editor

**Exiting with a diamond would be better. — editor

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



West	North	East	South
Check	Fu	Grue	Zhao
—	pass	1 ♣ (1)	1 ♥ (2)
1 ♠	pass	2 ♣	pass
2 ♠	pass	2 NT	pass
3 ♠	pass	4 ♠	(all pass)

- (1) Artificial, forcing
- (2) Artificial intervention, spades or minors

Opening lead: ♦K

There are many popular defensive methods against artificial and forcing 1♣ openings. Some like to play that a suit bid shows that suit and the next one along. Others prefer to use a denial bid to show the next suit along or the two suits beyond that. South's 1♥ bid here can show spades or both minors.

You can see one benefit here of keeping quiet with a poor 5-card suit. Sometimes the opponents end up playing in your suit. That way you need only take four tricks for a plus score, while you have to take seven if you bid at the one-level.

Declarer took the ♦K and played the ♥K. South won, returned a diamond to the queen and ruffed the next diamond. The ♠A meant one down and North-South +100 and +14 imps. So what would you prefer:

pass and collect +100 or bid 1♠ and go -800? Tough choice, right? The Chang team went on to win the match and the final against the Welland team, reported earlier this year in *Bridge Today*.

SHUGART vs WELLAND

West	North	East	South
Teramoto	Stansby	Del'Monte	Martel
—	pass	1 ♣	1 ♠
pass	pass	double	(all pass)

Opening lead: ♣9

East took the ♣A and returned the ♣Q. South won and played a diamond to the king, ducked. The ♦3 from dummy was won by the jack.* East cashed the ♣J, West shedding the ♥3. Next came the ♥K, ♥A, ruffed. West continued with the ♠K, ♠J, ♠9, all ducked. Then came the ♦9, ♦Q, ♦A, ruffed, and South had the ♠A to come. That gave South one club, one diamond and two trump tricks for three down and -800. At the other table:

West	North	East	South
Zmudzinski	Brogeland	Balicki	Shugart
—	pass	1 ♣	1 ♠
pass	pass	double	pass
pass	1 NT	double	pass
pass	2 ♥	double	(all pass)

Opening lead: ♥4

The ♥7 won trick one and a diamond went to the king and ace. East shifted to the ♣Q and the ♣K held. The ♥A was cashed, followed by a diamond to the queen and a diamond ruff. Declarer played the ♠A, ruffed by East, and so declarer escaped for only -200. That was 12 imps to Shugart. Nevertheless, Welland won the match in the end.

*A heart to the ace would be better. — editor