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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*

## In This Issue:

- |    |  |    |  |
|----|--|----|--|
| 2  | The Red Pencil<br>Two-over-one                         | 27 | The Wizards of Aus<br>by Ron Klingner                        |
| 5  | 2006 Spingold Report<br>by Pamela Granovetter          | 29 | Building a Better Mousetrap<br>Jump Splinter Responses to 2♣ |
| 12 | Chicago, Chicago<br>by Eddie Kantar                    | 30 | Hands from Scotland<br>by Liz McGowan                        |
| 15 | World Mixed Pairs (part III)<br>by Matthew Granovetter | 31 | The Switch in Time Forum                                     |

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## The Red Pencil

by Matthew Granovetter

~~Two over one system~~



Let's tackle a really popular method, the entire system of two-over-one. It's really an awful system. Why does everyone play it? Why is it so "politically correct"? Because it's easy. A two-over-one is forcing to game — no need to discuss further how to make a forcing bid.

Poker is easy. It's also very popular. Solitaire is easy. Reading a book instead of playing bridge is easy. Hey, television is even easier than reading a book. Get my drift?

The main flaw in two-over-one auctions occurs when responder has an invitational hand and must do something other than make a two-over-one. For example, suppose responder holds:

♠ K x ♥ x x ♦ J 10 x ♣ A Q 10 x x x

Partner opens the bidding 1♠. What is your response?

Playing 2/1 you have a choice of responding 1NT forcing or, if you play it, a jump to 3♣ to show an invitational bid with six clubs. OK, you say, so let's play the 3♣ jump to show this hand.

Opener has:

♠ A x x x x x ♥ A K x ♦ Q x x ♣ x

What does opener bid over 3♣?

I notice you are peeking up and down at the two hands to see what the combined

hands produce. Yes, they produce a good play for 4♠. Is opener supposed to rebid 3♠ on his ace-empty sixth? I don't think so. It's not very likely responder has K-x of spades, is it? Furthermore, if opener rebids 3♠, is it forcing? An what then does responder do with a hand such as this:

♠ Q ♥ 10 x x x ♦ K x ♣ K Q 10 9 x x

He cannot return to 3♣, folks. He may say to himself that the ♠Q is working overtime, whereupon he raises to 4♠, down three.

Now let's give opener a slightly different hand:

♠ A x x x x x ♥ A K x x ♦ Q x ♣ x

Peeking up and down, we see that 4♥ is a close game contract. It's better than 3♣. But does opener rebid 3♥ over an invitational jump of 3♣? What if responder holds:

♠ x ♥ J 10 x ♦ A x ♣ A J 9 x x x x

Where does responder go after a 3♥ bid? Does he rebid 4♣ or does he raise to 4♥, hoping that opener has five of them?

Two-over-one is not the dream system you think it is.

Where did two-over-one come from? Why is it so politically correct? Well, it came from Roth-Stone, except for one little nuance: Roth-Stone did *not* play two-over-one forcing to game!

Roth-Stone treats a two-over-one as a game-invitational hand or better. The response promises another bid, unless opener jumps immediately to game. Responder's second bid is not forcing if:

1. Responder rebids his own suit at the three level (after opener rebids at the two level).
2. Responder bids opener's suit at the two level.

Opener	Responder
♠ A Q 8 7 6	♠ 3
♥ K 3	♥ A 8 5
♦ 3	♦ A Q J 8 7 6
♣ A Q 10 5 2	♣ K 4 3
1 ♠	2 ♦
3 ♣	3 ♦
3 NT	4 ♣
4 ♥	5 ♥
6 ♣	pass

Case One

Opener	Responder
♠ A Q 8 7 2	♠ 6
♥ K Q J 3	♥ 9 8 5
♦ 3	♦ K Q J 8 7 6
♣ J 10 5	♣ A 8 2
1 ♠	2 ♦
2 ♥	3 ♦
pass	

Responder bids and rebids his suit. It's not forcing. Opener has had the chance to show both majors but responder does not have four hearts or three spades.

Opener	Responder
♠ A Q 8 7 2	♠ 9 6
♥ K 7 4 3	♥ A 8 5
♦ A 3	♦ K Q J 8 7 6
♣ K 2	♣ 4 3
1 ♠	2 ♦
2 ♥	3 ♦
3 NT	pass

Opener continues to 3NT with the ♦A-x and a stopper in clubs. This is a better contract played by opener, with the lead coming into his hand rather than through the ♣K. That would happen if responder bid 1NT over 1♠ instead of bidding diamonds.

Responder's 3♦ is forcing here, because opener rebid at the three level. Responder could have had the same hand without the ♣K, in which case he would pass 3NT.

Opener	Responder
♠ K 9 8 7 6	♠ 3
♥ K 3 2	♥ A 8 5
♦ A 3	♦ Q J 10 8 7 6
♣ K 8 7	♣ Q J 3
1 ♠	2 ♦
2 NT	3 ♦
pass	

Opener rebids 2NT, forcing one round, and responder rebids 3♦ with his minimum hand. Opener gives up.

Opener	Responder
♠ K 9 8 7 6	♠ 3
♥ K 3 2	♥ A 8
♦ A 3	♦ K Q J 10 8 7 6
♣ K 8 7	♣ 6 5 3
1 ♠	2 ♦
2 NT	3 NT
pass	

Responder has the same point count as the previous example but this time he has strong diamonds and, therefore, continues to 3NT.

Case Two

Opener	Responder
♠ A Q 8 7 2	♠ J 6
♥ K 7 4 3	♥ A J 5
♦ 3	♦ Q 10 8 7 6 2
♣ A 5 2	♣ K 4
1 ♠	2 ♦
2 ♥	2 ♠
pass	

Opener shows the majors and responder rebids 2♠, not forcing, rather than rebid his weak six-card diamond suit.

Opener	Responder
♠ A Q 8 7 2	♠ K 6
♥ K 7 4 3 2	♥ 10 8 5
♦ 3	♦ Q J 8 7 6 2
♣ A 2	♣ K Q
1 ♠	2 ♦
2 ♥	2 ♠
3 ♥	pass

Opener shows the majors and again responder rebids 2♠, not forcing. Opener continues with 3♥, inviting game with 5-5 in the majors, and responder passes.

Opener	Responder
♠ A Q 8 7 2	♠ K 6
♥ K Q 4 3 2	♥ 10 8 5
♦ 3	♦ Q J 8 7 6 2
♣ A 2	♣ K Q
1 ♠	2 ♦
2 ♥	2 ♠
3 ♣	3 ♥
4 ♥	pass

If opener holds a game force with 5-5 in the majors, he rebids 3♣ at his third turn, forcing responder to further describe.

Special Case: If opener rebids his own suit three times, it is not forcing.

Opener	Responder
♠ A Q 8 7 6 5 2	♠ 3
♥ K Q 3	♥ A 8 5
♦ 3	♦ K Q J 8 7 6
♣ Q 2	♣ 9 4 3
1 ♠	2 ♦
2 ♠	3 ♦
3 ♠	pass

Opener bids his suit three times, allowing responder to pass.

The only problems that may occur in this style are when responder wants to force and has only one long suit.

Opener	Responder
♠ A Q 8 7 6	♠ 3
♥ K 5 4 2	♥ A 8 5
♦ 3	♦ A Q J 8 7 6
♣ A J 10	♣ K 4 3
1 ♠	2 ♦
2 ♥	2 NT
3 NT	pass

Responder would like to rebid his suit but it would not be forcing, so he rebids 2NT instead, which is forcing. It didn't hurt too much.

If we switch the ♣K into the heart suit, responder rebids 3♣, fourth-suit forcing, instead of 2NT. Then opener rebids 3NT.

To sum up, two-over-one may be easier because there are no invitational auctions to memorize, but two-over-one not forcing to game is much superior.

Have a good month!

## 2006 Spingold Report (Part 1)

by Pamela Granovetter



It was not much of a surprise that the Bulldog Nickell team would face their perennial international finalist opponents, the Italian Stallions, in the last match of the 2006 Spingold Knockout Teams, which took place this summer in Chicago. Jimmy Cayne, an excellent player himself and latest sponsor of the Italians, had ditched his long-time teammates Bobby Levin and Steve Weinstein, and he must have been thrilled to find himself back in the saddle again. Levin and Weinstein are a fine pair, but there seemed to be little team chemistry for them during their many years on the Cayne team (just as there had been no chemistry for a number of other first-class Cayne teammates, such as Norwegian superstar Geir Helgemo). Cayne's new teammates are the Italian stalwarts Versace-Lauria, along with Nunes-Fantoni, once Italy's "third pair" but now considered #2 (Bocchi and Duboin, the former numero duo pair, currently play on the Lou Ann O'Rourke team).

The match started off with an easy game bid and made at both tables, but the second board was a striking illustration of the random-luck factor of bridge. One team reached a good but unlucky 4♠ game that went down one, while the other pair played in a 2♥ partscore, failed to find the winning line, and finished down one for an identical score and a push! How sweet it is when missing a game and failing to make your inferior but makeable contract costs you nothing!

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

West	North	East	South
Meck	Cayne	Rodwell	Seamon
—	—	pass	2♥
pass	2♠	pass	4♠
(all pass)			

Opening lead: ♣4

Cayne-Seamon bid to 4♠, a vulnerable game we would all like to reach. Unfortunately for them, declarer had to lose the ♣A, a club ruff, the ♦A, and the ♠Q.

At the other table, Dick Freeman also opened 2♥, but Nick Nickell passed. It looked like a lucky pick-up for Nickell after the ♦J was led to the ace and a club returned. East can take a club ruff but the defense scores only two more heart tricks (declarer's losing spade going away on one of dummy's high clubs). However, West

(Nunes) shifted to his singleton spade at trick three, giving declarer rope to hang himself.

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

Perhaps declarer should reason that East's club shift looks like a singleton, and if West deigned not to give his partner a ruff, he might be looking to set up a cross-ruff situation. If this is the case, declarer should play a trump to the ace and a low trump (catering to honor-doubleton in either hand). This would have been successful, but Freeman won the ♠A and floated the ♥9 to the king, whereupon the defense cross-ruffed a couple of tricks and East scored his ♥Q later for the setting trick and the aforementioned push.

Board 3 featured a Meckwell bidding accident — a very unusual one when the inventors of ultra-thin game bidding failed to reach a vulnerable game with 29 high-card points!

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

South	West	North	East
Seamon	Meckst	Cayne	Rodwell
pass	1 ♦ (1)	pass	1 ♥
double	redouble (2)	pass	pass
2 ♣	pass	pass	2 ♠
(all pass)			

- (1) Precision
- (2) shows three cards in hearts

Opening lead: ♠5

Rodwell took 12 tricks for +230. What happened?

Meckwell play that similar 2♠ bids by East in competition would be non-forcing, so Meckstroth passed (Cayne must have been "pumpkin pleased" to see that pass, looking at the lone high-card point in his hand and facing a passed-hand partner!). However, Rodwell reasoned that since he could have made his non-forcing bid in spades at the one level, the fact that he passed the redouble first and then bid 2♠ indicated that he meant to force. Meckstroth might have wondered, but he no doubt reasoned that there were other, more clear, ways to force. For example, Rodwell could have doubled in pass-out seat, for

takeout, or he could have cuebid 3♣. The BBO Vugraph commentators reported that after the hand was played out, Rodwell said to Meckstroth, "Sorry for creating a confusing auction."

Three notrump is probably the best game, but the East-West pair in the closed room also played in a Moysian fit (although theirs was at the game-level):

South dealer North  
E-W vul ♠ 9 2  
♥ 10 9 6 4 2  
♦ J 8 7 6 4  
♣ 9

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

South  
♠ Q 8 7 5  
♥ Q  
♦ Q 10 5  
♣ A 10 8 5 3

South <i>Freeman</i>	West <i>Nunes</i>	North <i>Nickell</i>	East <i>Fantoni</i>
pass	2 ♣ (1)	pass	2 ♦ (2)
pass	2 ♠ (3)	pass	2 NT
pass	3 ♥ (4)	pass	4 ♥

(all pass)

- (1) 5+ clubs, 10-13 HCP
- (2) please describe your hand
- (3) could be 3-cards
- (4) 4-3-1-5 shape

Nunes received a diamond lead and had no trouble scoring 10 tricks, for +620 and 9 imps to Cayne, who drew the first blood to lead 9-0.

Board 4 • West dealer • All vul

What would you do with:

East  
♠ Q 10 9 8 6 5  
♥ A Q J  
♦ K 10 8  
♣ J

West	North	East	South
pass	1 ♦	1 ♠	1 NT
pass	pass	?	

Rodwell bid 2♠, and Fantoni passed. Who was right?

West dealer	North (Nickell)
All vul	♠ 7 3
	♥ K 7 6 5
	♦ A Q 7 2
	♣ K Q 5

West (Nunes)	East (Fantoni)
♠ A 4	♠ Q 10 9 8 6 5
♥ 9 8 3 2	♥ A Q J
♦ J 3	♦ K 10 8
♣ 10 9 6 4 2	♣ J

South (Freeman)  
♠ K J 2  
♥ 10 4  
♦ 9 6 5 4  
♣ A 8 7 3

West	North	East	South
<i>Nunes</i>	<i>Nickell</i>	<i>Fantoni</i>	<i>Freeman</i>
pass	1 ♦	1 ♠	1 NT
pass	pass	pass	

Rodwell. When Freeman was allowed to play 1NT, West led ace and another spade. Freeman won and took the diamond finesse. Fantoni won and cleared spades. When clubs failed to break, Freeman cashed his tricks and finished down one, -100.



Hand Rotated

East dealer North (Seamon)  
 All vul ♠ K J 2  
 ♥ 10 4  
 ♦ 9 6 5 4  
 ♣ A 8 7 3

West (Rodwell) East (Meckstroth)  
 ♠ Q 10 9 8 6 5 ♠ A 4  
 ♥ A Q J ♥ 9 8 3 2  
 ♦ K 10 8 ♦ J 3  
 ♣ J ♣ 10 9 6 4 2

South (Cayne)  
 ♠ 7 3  
 ♥ K 7 6 5  
 ♦ A Q 7 2  
 ♣ K Q 5

West	North	East	South
Rodwell	Seamon	Mecks	Cayne
—	—	pass	1 ♦
1 ♠	1 NT	pass	pass
2 ♠	3 ♦	(all pass)	

Rodwell led the ♣J. Cayne won with the ace and lost the diamond finesse. Rodwell won the king and played a spade. Since declarer needed the ♥A onside, he played Meckstroth for the ♠A and rose with the king. Meckstroth won and gave Rodwell his club ruff, then Rodwell played the ♠Q and a spade, and Meckstroth's jack of trumps promoted Rodwell's 10 into another trick. Cayne tried for an endplay by over-ruffing the spade and exiting with a trump to Rodwell, but Rodwell played another spade, giving declarer a useless ruff-and-sluff, and declarer finished down three, -300 and 5 imps to Nickell. Notice that Rodwell's 2♠ bid would be worth an imp or two anyway, even if Seamon passed it.

Board 5 featured an easy-to-bid 4♠ game, reached and made at both tables. So the score remained 9-5 for Cayne.

On Board 6, Fantoni was dealer, vul. vs. not, and opened a weak 1NT with:

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

It went all pass, and a non-taxing defense allowed him to make the contract in comfort, for +90. At the other table Rodwell had to open a Precision 1♦ and rebid 2♣ over partner's 1♥ response, and 2♣ became the final contract (it was another Moysian fit). This could not be made against strong defense, which is what he got, for -100. That was 5 imps for Cayne, who now led 14-5.

What would you do, all vul, with:

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

Partner	Opp	You	Opp
1 ♠	pass	1 NT*	3 ♥
4 ♥	5 ♥	?	

\* forcing

Your ♥K is definitely a wasted card, but might partner have something like ♠ A K x x x ♥ — ♦ A K x x ♣ K Q x x, or ♠ A K J 10 x ♥ x ♦ A K x ♣ A x x x? That's presumably what Cayne expected, because he bid 6♦. The whole hand was:



Fulvio Fantoni



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

South	West	North	East
Seamon	Mecks	Cayne	Rodwell
1 ♠	pass	1 NT*	3 ♥
4 ♥	5 ♥	?	

Rodwell (East) led the ♣A. The contract was bad, requiring the ♦K singleton. It was not Cayne's lucky day — down one.

Perhaps the 4♥ cuebid should show a hand like Seamon actually held. After all, with 5-0-4-4 or with 5-1-3-4 and a big hand, South could double 3♥ for takeout, could he not? The cuebid to the four-level, forcing partner to bid game, implies possession of a "landing place," a safe spot, which could only be spades. If so, partner bids 4♠ with something like:

♠ x ♥ K x x x ♦ 10 x x x x ♣ A J x. If not for the "landing place" inference, North would have to bid 5♦, a ridiculous contract.

South	West	North	East
Freeman	Nunes	Nickell	Fantoni
1 ♠	pass	1 NT*	3 ♥
4 ♠	5 ♥	pass	pass
double	(all pass)		

At the other table, Dick Freeman made a more conservative, and perhaps more

practical, rebid of 4♠. West again bid 5♥, but this time North wasn't involved and he passed. South reopened with a double, presumably meaning, "I bid 4♠ to make, do something!" and Nickell smartly took the money. Five hearts doubled was not a thing of beauty, but East managed to escape for down two when Freeman led a high spade and shifted to the ♣K. East won, and played a heart to the ace and the queen of hearts. Nickell won and played the ♣J, which Freeman overtook to cash the queen and continue clubs. Declarer ruffed and ran a few trump. North threw away his ♠Q and South was pseudo-squeezed — sort of; the BBO commentators said he told East, "I get the ace of diamonds," so East was able to claim down two. (South was obliged to keep the ♦A and throw his spades.)

Nevertheless, that was 12 imps for Nickell, who took the lead 17-14.

Board 8 was a well-judged part-score push, but Board 9 was a not-well-judged push. What would you do at favorable with: ♠ K J 10 5 3 ♥ J 9 5 ♦ K 10 9 2 ♣ 4

West	North	East	South
—	1 ♠	2 ♥	?

Both Freeman and Seamon chose to bid 4♠, so an easy slam was missed when partner held: ♠ A 8 6 4 2 ♥ A ♦ A J 7 4 ♣ A J 3

Both declarers misguessed diamonds, for +480 and a push.

That South hand doesn't look very slam-mish, but what does it cost to let partner know you have a "chunky" preemptive raise to game? Would South not jump to 4♠ holding five strong trump, a singleton club, and four small diamonds? With this hand, South should bid 4♣, splinter.

Board 10 resulted in a small swing. At favorable vulnerability, would you open this hand after three passes?

♠ A J 5 ♥ K 10 8 6 ♦ Q 10 9 ♣ Q 5 4

Nickell passed; Cayne opened 1♣ and passed his partner's 1♠ response. That was the final contract and it made easily, so the Cayne team chalked up +80 and twoimps. The other hand was:

♠ 10 9 6 4 ♥ A Q 9 ♦ A 7 6 ♣ 9 7 6

The Nickell lead was reduced to one imp, 17-16.

How would you play this 5♣ contract?

West dealer      Dummy (Meckstroth)  
None vul      ♠ A K J 6 2  
                  ♥ A 8  
                  ♦ 5 3  
                  ♣ 8 6 4 2  
  
♦ 7

Declarer (Rodwell)  
♠ 3  
♥ J 7  
♦ A Q 9 8 4 2  
♣ K Q J 5

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

Opening lead: ♦7

You capture East's king with your ace and play the king-queen of clubs. West wins the second round, East following, and shifts to a low heart. You win the ace. What next?

Board 11 (Hand Rotated)

West dealer      Dummy (Meckstroth)  
None vul      ♠ A K J 6 2  
                  ♥ A 8  
                  ♦ 5 3  
                  ♣ 8 6 4 2

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

Declarer (Rodwell)  
♠ 3  
♥ J 7  
♦ A Q 9 8 4 2  
♣ K Q J 5

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

Opening lead: ♦7

The winning line is to pull the last trump, play the ♠A-K, discarding your heart loser, then play a diamond off dummy and cover East's card. Then give up a diamond and claim.

Presumably Rodwell didn't believe Seamon would lead a singleton diamond on this auction, because after winning the ♥A, he pulled the last trump and cashed the ♦Q. He then hooked the ♠J in desperation, and finished down two.

In the other room, Nunes-Fantoni played 3NT [1NT-3♠ (minors); 3NT] by North down one after a heart lead, so that was 2imps for Cayne, who took the lead 18-17.

The lead swung back to Nickell after Meckstroth's 1♠ opening bid with an 11-point hand and nine-fifth of spades:

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

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

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

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

West	North	East	South
Mecks	Cayne	Rodwell	Seamon
1 ♠	pass	1 NT	double
pass	2 ♦	(all pass)	

Two diamonds scored +90 after a trump lead and some misguesses.

West	North	East	South
Nunes	Nickell	Fantoni	Freeman
pass	pass	pass	1 NT
pass	2 ♣	pass	2 ♥
pass	2 NT	(all pass)	

Opening lead: ♠6

At the other table the contract was 2NT, which should have made on the nose, for a one-imp gain for Nickell. Nunes-Fantoni, however, apparently don't use obvious-shift carding. Freeman won the ♠Q with the ace and led the ♥K to West's ace. On this trick East played the 6, but Switch fans know that the ♥3 is the suit-preference signal to get a club shift. Nunes continued spades, so declarer took 10 tricks instead of eight, and the swing was 3 imps to Nickell instead of 1. Nickell now led 20-18.

Cayne recovered an imp on Board 13

when Seamon made a more successful opening lead than Freeman (who led a . . . trump), so it was Nickell 20-19.

On Board 14 both teams reached a vulnerable 24-point 3NT game with no play, but it was impossible to diagnose the fact that the cards didn't fit well. Nickell picked up 5 imps on Board 15 when Nickell-Freeman bid more accurately than Cayne-Seamon after a reverse auction:

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

Freeman	Nickell
1 ♣	1 ♠
2 ♥	2 ♠
3 ♣	pass

The diamond honors were split and the ♥J was singleton, so 3♣ was easy to make even though clubs broke 4-2.

Seamon	Cayne
1 ♣	1 ♠
2 ♥	2 ♠
2 NT	3 NT

Who do you think overbid in the second auction? It would depend on the meaning of 2NT. If 3♣ is the only non-forcing bid in this sequence, Seamon overbid. If 2NT shows this hand, Cayne overbid. This is a good sequence to discuss with your regular partner. Nickell now led 25-19.

On the last board of the set both teams reached a 26 HCP 3NT that couldn't be made. Meckstroth's line of play cost an extra undertrick, though, so 3 imps went to Cayne, leaving Nickell in the lead 25-22 with 48 boards to play. [To be continued.]



## Chicago, Chicago

by Eddie Kantar

And so it came to pass that Phillip Alder and I wound up playing in a one session imp Swiss (a last minute decision) with Yvonne and her partner, Anne-Marie Wells, a more than competent player and great friend who lives in Canada. Anne Marie is a story in itself, but that will have to wait. Take my word for it, she's an A+ lady and that's an underbid.

Phillip and I had never played before so the agreements were scarce, but they did include five-card majors. This agreement lasted for exactly five hands. On the sixth and last hand of the first match I picked up: ♠ A K J 8 ♥ K 10 ♦ K 6 5 4 ♣ 10 5 4, and naturally opened 1♠,\* a bid that was sure to foment distrust for the rest of the evening. Besides, this was a doubtful move given the state of the match. We had done quite nicely up to this point, so I was playing with fire. Nevertheless, I did it. Five seconds later the opening lead against 7♠ was the ♠9. This was the dummy Phillip presented me with:

Dummy

♠ Q 5 3 2

♥ A J 3

♦ A

♣ A K J 7 2

♠ 9

Kantar

♠ A K J 8

♥ K 10

♦ K 6 5 4

♣ 10 5 4

Not only had I opened a four-card major, but I had also shown a four-card diamond suit after my partner's 3♣ response, which was a slam try in spades, making 7♠ seem an even more likely contract from his point of view. The question is: How should I play this hand to save the partnership — and the team?

As we had played quickly up to now, several irrelevant thoughts were running through my mind. (I knew I was going to have to test the clubs and then take the heart finesse if the ♣Q didn't appear.) The musing began.

I could win the spade in my hand, cross to the ♦A and lead a heart to the 10. If that worked, I could ruff a diamond low, return to the ♥K, ruff a diamond high and draw trumps (I was sure they were 3-2 — who leads a singleton spade or the 9 from 10-9-x-x?) and claim, pitching the club on the ♥A.

I would never do this, of course, but if this was the only winning line I wanted to be able to tell Phillip I had been thinking about it.

\*For readers' information, Kantar is a four-card major player from way back. — editor

Dummy

♠ Q 5 3 2

♥ A J 3

♦ A

♣ A K J 7 2

♠ 9

Kantar

♠ A K J 8

♥ K 10

♦ K 6 5 4

♣ 10 5 4

Then other thoughts appeared. I use the two-way finesse theme in my classes. I recommend waiting a bit before attacking the suit, since an opponent (defined as a good friend or relative) might lead the suit for you. This bit of advice does not apply in a grand slam.

Then there is the Helen Sobel method used when playing against two guys. She raised her skirt a bit above her knees when missing the queen of trumps in a small or a grand slam. The idea being that the one with the queen would be staring at his hand intently while the other would let his eyes wander innocently — yet another technique I could not employ.

Unfortunately, my LHO had three spades and a singleton club and ruffed the second club. The bottom line is that I screwed up a winning match with my penchant for opening strong four-card major suits. Worse, I had to wait for our partners to return to the table to confess my sin.

Well, they came back shaking their heads and you know what that means. In Yvonne's defense she had a couple of glasses of wine at dinner, not even dreaming she was going to play that evening. To put it gently, she wasn't quite ready for bridge. Overlooking several revokes (two!) neither

Then of course, there is the dreaded "C" word. You count to see which opponent started with the greater length and play that opponent for the queen. Finally, if all else fails there is the "dislike" finesse. You play the player you dislike the most for the queen, because if the finesse works, you get so much more satisfaction. Even with all this lore at my disposal, I knew I couldn't really try any of these plays.

I settled on winning the ♠K, crossing to the ♣A, returning to the ♠A (both followed) and leading a second club. My idea was to play the king, and if the queen didn't fall and both followed, draw the last trump and play the ♥K and a heart to the jack, intending to discard the ♣10 on the ♥A, ruff a club, etc. Furthermore, if LHO showed out on the second club and didn't ruff, I could win the king, take the heart finesse through the opening leader, discard a club on the ♥A, ruff a club, cross to the ♦A, ruff another club, ruff a diamond, draw the last trump, and claim. Of course, I would be expecting an ovation, at least from Phillip, and would surely use the hand in one of my Test Your Plays for the *Bulletin*, modestly mentioning who played the hand.

of which cost, she also alerted Anne-Marie's 2♦ "overcall" as Flannery, not seeing the 1♣ opening to her left. Then came the kicker. The play had gone so slowly on the penultimate hand that an opponent was declaring, they didn't have time for the last hand. In other words, our 7♠ result was thrown out!

Was this going to be our event, or what? Their results turned out to be more than solid and we won a blitz. And then another blitz and then two more big wins, so we won the event. They never came back with a weak result. Not one. I've never played on



a team where my teammates didn't come back with at least one soft result. It was a team victory, the thrown-out board being the highlight, of course. And now the quest for 20 more Silver Points for Yvonne begins in earnest.

I must tell you about one more hand that Phillip the butler played in this event. Why "Phillip the butler"? Many years ago Phil-

lip visited Los Angeles and, having retained his lovely British accent, we had him record a message on our telephone answering machine. It started like this (you have to imagine a great British accent), "Hello, this is Phillip the butler and this is the Kantar residence...." I kept that message for years and finally deleted it. Now I am begging Phillip to return and rerecord that message. It gave us such status! Back to the hand.

We were vulnerable against not.

Philip took 13 tricks! This is not a misprint.

North (moi)  
 ♠ A 8 6 2  
 ♥ 8 5 4  
 ♦ Q 10 9  
 ♣ A K 4

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

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

This is what happened:

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

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

♠ Q 9 4 3  
 ♥ 10  
 ♦ 7 6 4 3  
 ♣ 10 6 5 3

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

West led the ♠5, playing fourth best leads. My question is: How many tricks do you think Phillip the butler took? It's OK to think big.

How big did you think? Ten tricks because the player with the five hearts discarded a couple of hearts on the clubs? Not a bad guess, but not quite right. Eleven tricks because during the course of play Phillip might have led a diamond towards dummy's Q-10-9 and second hand with the A-K ducked? Not a bad thought, but not quite right. So you are thinking somehow Phillip took 12. I told you to think big.

West led the ♠5. Phillip played low from dummy and East carefully inserted the 4 to give count. Phillip took the first trick with the ♠7. I bet you didn't think about that! Next came a diamond to the 10, which held. This was followed by the ♠A, upon which the ♦J was discarded, and now the run of the clubs. West naturally discarded hearts, so after the clubs and hearts Phillip had one card left: the ♦8. West, having already discarded the ♦K, had to decide which card to save: the ♠K or the ♦A. Apparently, having forgotten that Phillip discarded on the ♠A, guess what she kept ... the ♠K! Can't wait for the next Nationals in Chicago.



## Diary of the World Mixed Pairs

by Matthew Granovetter

### Part III — At Your Opponents' Mercy



My partner, Karen McCallum, and I began the second round of three final rounds in third place. This round we were East-West, with the men seated West and North, but the West and South players were on the same side of the screen — a kind act (for the men) by the administrators. The first board out was a bidding problem for North-South. Could you reach 3NT with these cards:

Board 23	North
South dealer	♠ K 9 6 2
N-S vul	♥ 8 4 3
	♦ K Q
	♣ K 7 6 3
	South
	♠ Q J
	♥ A J 7 6 2
	♦ A J 8 4
	♣ Q 4

South	North
1 ♥	1 NT (forcing)
2 ♦	3 ♥
4 ♥	pass

This was the auction at our table. There was no miracle in hearts and the contract was down one, a 29% score for North-South. Why only 29%? Because many players, with

“matchpoints” in mind, opened the South hand 1NT. North often jumped to 3NT with the ♦K-Q, and West led a club away from his ace. Reaching 3NT was worth 78%. Would you have gotten to 3NT? And what about atimps scoring? Isn't 3NT a much better spot than 4♥? Yet I do not know how to do it, except by closing your eyes with that soft South 15-count and opening 1NT.

On the second round, we gave North an opening lead problem. . . .

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

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

East's 2♠ was McCallum, 4-10 points with usually a five-card suit. My 3♦ response as West was not forcing, somewhere between 0 and 18 HCP! What would you lead as North? (Or would you have stuck your neck in with a vulnerable 3♥ overcall?)



Here's the scoring. Lead a heart and you get 37%. Lead anything else for 61%.

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

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

Well, if you come in with a 3♥ overcall, partner will bid 4♥ and West will double, I promise you. That's a zero.

Soon thereafter, North had a rebid problem:

Board 5	North		
North dealer	♠ K 10 9 4		
N-S vul	♥ A		
	♦ K J 5 4		
	♣ A Q 10 8		
West	North	East	South
—	1 ♦	pass	1 ♠
pass	?		

- Your choices are:
- 3♠ (an underbid)
  - 4♠ (OK, but partner does not know about the heart singleton)
  - 4♥ (splinter, but with the ace?)
  - 3♥ (depends what this means...)

And the winning bid is...

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

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

Seems like 4♥ will get you to slam easily. A jump to 4♠ might do the trick, but at our table South passed.

Reaching 6♠ was worth 88%.  
Playing 4♠ was worth 45% (which meant 55% for us).

On the next round, I held, vul vs. not:

♠ 10 7 5 3			
♥ J 2			
♦ K Q 9 8 5			
♣ J 4			
West	North	East	South
—	1 ♣	1 ♥	1 ♠
?			

What would you do?

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

West	North	East	South
—	1 ♣	1 ♥	1 ♠
2 ♦			

I bid 2♦, and then I remembered I could have made the famous “snap dragon” double, showing honor and one in partner’s overcalled suit and the missing fourth suit. Perhaps it’s a little dangerous to bid, vulnerable, without a clear fit, but it was one of those now-or-never situations. The auction continued:

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

Well, what could I do? My partner’s double was penalty and I passed, hoping she was not counting on me for too much. This was the full hand (rotated to make South declarer):



Congratulations to the 2006 World Junior Team champions: (l to r) captain Bob Rosen with Joe Grue, Ari Greenberg, Jason Feldman, John Kranyak, Josh Donn and Justin Lall. They won in Bangkok (July 29-Aug 8). More on this event in a future issue.

Board 9                  Dummy  
 South dealer        ♠ A K 9 8 6  
 E-W vul              ♥ 6 5 3  
                              ♦ 10 7 6 4 3  
                              ♣ —

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

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

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

Opening lead: ♦J

Declarer won, cashed two top spades, pitching a diamond, and then ruffed a spade. Next came the ♣A and ♣10. My partner had a choice and made the right one. She went up with the ♣Q, crashing my jack, cashed the ♣K and exited with a club, avoiding the endplay in hearts. If she had ducked the ♣10 and declarer held the ♣J, she would have been endplayed on the next round. Well, it didn’t matter. If she had ducked to my jack, I could lead the ♥J to the king and ace, but then she is endplayed anyway. This way we took only two trump tricks, but three heart tricks. Down one was a good result for us, scoring 72%.

When you double the opponents, on the first board of a round, for a one-trick set, they are often out to get you back on the next board. Well, at least I have this feeling they are. So on the second board of this round I was cautious. . . .

I held in third seat, all vul:

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

My style is to open light in third seat. But I passed, because experience has taught me that opening light with a singleton spade is poor strategy. It went 1♠ on my

left, pass by KM, 2♠ on my right. Now I have the shape for a takeout double, but I was nervous that if we were going down one at the three level, the opponents would be quick to double us (to get even). On the other hand, we all know the rule of thumb that the hand short in their suit must take action. I felt terrible when I passed – was I so chicken? We defended 2♠, not usually a good idea at matchpoints. Here's the full hand, rotated again for easier reading:

Board 10	Dummy	
West dealer	♠ 10 8 6 2	
All vul	♥ A K 10 7	
	♦ 8 3 2	
	♣ Q 10	
KM		MG
♠ K J 9		♠ 3
♥ J 8 3 2		♥ Q 6 5 4
♦ A 9		♦ K J 10 7 4
♣ J 9 8 3		♣ A 7 4
	Declarer	
	♠ A Q 7 5 4	
	♥ 9	
	♦ Q 6 5	
	♣ K 6 5 2	

Declarer played the 10 from dummy and I won the ace. I returned the ♦10. To make his contract declarer needed to play low on this, but he foolishly played the queen, thinking perhaps he was going to fool West into not returning a diamond. West wasn't fooled. We took three diamonds and set the contract one trick for 68%. Had declarer played low on the ♦10, he would have scored 70% instead. And what about doubling 2♠ for takeout? Well, I suppose we would land in 3♥ and I also suppose North would double! So it was just as well I didn't double 2♠.

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

Perhaps my conservatism was contagious. My partner, who is usually very aggressive in preempts, was uncharacteristically cautious on the next board....

Opening lead: ♣8

Board 13	North	
North dealer	♠ 2	
All vul	♥ A K Q 8	
	♦ 9 8 4	
	♣ K Q J 4 2	
West (MG)		East (KM)
♠ A 8 5		♠ K 10 9 7 6 4 3
♥ 5 3 2		♥ 6
♦ K 10 6 3 2		♦ J 5
♣ 8 6		♣ A 10 5
	South	
	♠ Q J	
	♥ J 10 9 7 4	
	♦ A Q 7	
	♣ 9 7 3	

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

Karen's 2♠, vulnerable, was a reasonable alternative to 3♠ at matchpoints. But when I raised to 3♠ and North bid 4♥, Karen

passed and afterward apologized. Note that this is *not* a case where the preemptor never bids again. West must not trap East by bidding 3♠ with a trump stack in hearts.

Four spades would not only have been a good save, but a lucky make! Meanwhile, they made 4♥ with an overtrick after the spade lead. It takes a diamond lead or ♠K lead and diamond shift to beat it (followed by a second round of spades), and we scored 23%. We could have scored average if we had at least held 4♥ to four, which not one pair did out of the 44 pairs who defended 4♥ or 5♥ and led a low spade. Declarer ruffed my spade return high at trick two, cashed two hearts, ending in dummy, and led a club to the king and ace. If East ducks, wins the second round and gives me a ruff, we salvage an average.

On the next round, our system did us in. But a great play would have saved us....

Board 17	Dummy	
North dealer	♠ K 4 3	
None vul	♥ Q 7 5 4	
	♦ A J 10 9 6	
	♣ 10	
KM		MG
♠ Q 10 9 6 2		♠ 8 7 5
♥ —		♥ K J 9 6
♦ Q 8 4 2		♦ 5 3
♣ Q 5 4 2		♣ A 9 8 3
	Declarer	
	♠ A J	
	♥ A 10 8 3 2	
	♦ K 7	
	♣ K J 7 6	

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

\*clubs and hearts, or diamonds and spades  
Opening lead: ♠10

My partner's overcall, showing two suits (either spades and diamonds, or hearts and clubs) was a bit light. In fact, she could have doubled instead, showing the red suits or the black suits! This would have worked better, since they might have investigated more and reached 4♥.

Karen led the ♠10 against 3NT. Declarer won the jack and led a low heart to the queen and king. I returned ♣A and ♣9, to the jack and queen. That was three tricks for us. Karen returned a club into South's K-7, and now South had the rest: He could take 10 tricks: three spades, two hearts, three diamonds and two clubs. But declarer, who lost the club spot and did not realize the 7 was high, saw a more elegant way to take the rest of the tricks. He cashed the ♠A and led the ♦7 to the jack. Then he took a deep heart finesse (I covered the 7),

Board 17  
 North dealer  
 None vul  
 Dummy  
 ♠ K 4 3  
 ♥ Q 7 5 4  
 ♦ A J 10 9 6  
 ♣ 10

KM  
 ♠ Q 10 9 6 2  
 ♥ —  
 ♦ Q 8 4 2  
 ♣ Q 5 4 2

MG  
 ♠ 8 7 5  
 ♥ K J 9 6  
 ♦ 5 3  
 ♣ A 9 8 3

Declarer  
 ♠ A J  
 ♥ A 10 8 3 2  
 ♦ K 7  
 ♣ K J 7 6

went back to dummy by overtaking the ♦K with the ace, cashed the ♠K, discarding his ♣7, and took another heart finesse. Ten tricks and a 14% score for us. To hold him to nine tricks, West must play the ♦Q when the ♦7 is led!

Why all this discussion about one over-trick? Well, most of the field was in 4♥, making four, 620. Had we held 3NT to 600, we would have scored 88% instead of 14%! It was truly a matchpoint hand.

We got something back on the next board when we bid accurately to the best contract. Yes, folks, even at matchpoints you can sometimes score well by bidding well....

Board 18  
 East dealer  
 N-S vul  
 North  
 ♠ 6 3 2  
 ♥ J 9 3  
 ♦ A 10 5 2  
 ♣ K 7 6

West (MG)  
 ♠ Q 5  
 ♥ 8 6  
 ♦ K Q J 7 4 3  
 ♣ Q 5 3

East (KM)  
 ♠ A K J 7 4  
 ♥ A 5 4  
 ♦ 8  
 ♣ A J 9 8

South  
 ♠ 10 9 8  
 ♥ K Q 10 7 2  
 ♦ 9 6  
 ♣ 10 4 2

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

spade fit and scored 11 tricks. The ♥K lead was ducked. South shifted accurately to a trump. Declarer won the ♠Q, played ♥A and ruffed a heart, then the ♦K to the ace. North continued trumps and Karen drew trumps and led the ♣J, losing one heart, one diamond and one club for a 61% score.

The strange thing was that 3NT making four beats this score. But not a single declarer in 3NT (of the 26 times it was played in 3NT) made more than nine tricks. At every table, South led a top heart and continued, as East held up until the third round. Next came a diamond to the king and ace. North, with no more hearts, exited either with a spade or club and in either case declarer refused to take a risky club finesse into the South hand. That was impressive, I thought – not one in 26 declarers took the club finesse for the overtrick! (Thanks to all of you!)

My partner's 3♥ probe was a much better bid than 3NT. We landed in our 5-2

Here's a bidding problem for you.

Board 21 • North dealer • N-S vul

South (you)  
 ♠ 7  
 ♥ 8 7  
 ♦ A Q 8 7 5  
 ♣ A 10 8 5 4

Your choices are:  
 Pass  
 Double  
 5♥  
 4NT (hopefully read as a takeout)

West	North	East	South
—	2♥	4♠	?

Board 21  
 North dealer  
 N-S vul

North  
 ♠ Q 9  
 ♥ A Q 9 5 4 3  
 ♦ 10  
 ♣ J 7 3 2

West (MG)  
 ♠ J 4  
 ♥ K J 2  
 ♦ K 9 6 4 3 2  
 ♣ Q 6

East (KM)  
 ♠ A K 10 8 6 5 3 2  
 ♥ 10 6  
 ♦ J  
 ♣ K 9

South  
 ♠ 7  
 ♥ 8 7  
 ♦ A Q 8 7 5  
 ♣ A 10 8 5 4

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

♠ 10 5  
 ♥ K Q J 9 6 5 3  
 ♦ 10 4  
 ♣ 10 5

Our opponent passed and led a heart. That was down one, but they scored only 39% for plus 50. A double would have improved their score to 86%. Did you double? Perhaps you should, since partner did open vul vs. not, and must have something over there. If you can make a game, you want to get something more than 50 a trick against the 4♠ sacrifice.

As for the other choices over 4♠, if you bid 5♥, perhaps pinochle is your game, but if you bid 4NT you might luck out, scoring 600 in 5♣!

One pair did this for a cold top. East led a top spade against 5♣, and shifted to the ♦J. Up with the ♦A, three rounds of hearts, ruffing, and ♣A and a club – North hand now high. Easy game.

Is there any point in preempting vul vs. not? What would you do with this hand:

It goes pass on your left, pass by partner, 1♠ on your right, and you are vul vs. not. I didn't think twice – I just passed. Why tell them about my hand, why push them into something they may not be able to reach on their own steam. North raised to 2♠ and it came back around to me. Would you balance with 3♥ now? I didn't. They'll just bid 3♠ or double me for a one-trick set, I thought. This was the whole hand:



Board 25	North		
North dealer	♠ J 3 2		
E-W vul	♥ 8		
	♦ Q J 5 3		
	♣ A 7 4 3 2		
West (MG)		East (KM)	
♠ 10 5		♠ Q 7 6	
♥ K Q J 9 6 5 3		♥ A 10 7	
♦ 10 4		♦ A 8 6 2	
♣ 10 5		♣ J 9 6	
	South		
	♠ A K 9 8 4		
	♥ 4 2		
	♦ K 9 7		
	♣ K Q 8		
West	North	East	South
—	pass	pass	1 ♠
pass	2 ♠	(all pass)	

They played 2♠ making five. I led the ♥K and switched to a club. Declarer won in hand, ruffed a heart and ran the ♠J. Then N-S started quibbling about who had underbid. Do you think North should have bid Drury with his hand? And South did not quite have a game try, did she. We scored 59%.

Would you bid over a 15-17 notrump, all vul, with this hand:

♠ A K 9 2
♥ Q J 7 6
♦ J 10 6
♣ A 7

If you could make a penalty double, would you? If you can't, would you make a bid that shows the majors?

Board 26	North		
East dealer	♠ 8 7		
All vul	♥ 10 8		
	♦ 9 8 7 2		
	♣ 10 6 5 4 2		
West (MG)		East (KM)	
♠ A K 9 2		♠ J 6 4	
♥ Q J 7 6		♥ K 5 4	
♦ J 10 6		♦ 5 4 3	
♣ A 7		♣ K Q J 8	
	South		
	♠ Q 10 5 3		
	♥ A 9 3 2		
	♦ A K Q		
	♣ 9 3		
West	North	East	South
—	—	pass	1 NT
(all pass)			
Opening lead: ♠K			

I led the ♠K and switched to the ♥Q. Declarer ducked and I continued hearts to the king and ace. Declarer then led a crafty low club. I foolishly played the 7 and our club suit was blocked. Karen returned the ♠J and we ended with eight tricks for down two. We could have still gotten it down three with a heart back from East, ♣A cash and exit of a diamond, but it was difficult to know the precise position. Down two was still worth 64% because a good number of players made a bid for the majors with my hand and played in 2♥ making three. And some Souths opened a safer 1♦.

After some flat boards, we found ourselves against a two friends of Karen's from Turkey, where she has spent a good deal of time visiting. Karen did not let her friendship stop her from going for a top score. . . .



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

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

North made a light overcall of my McCallum 2♠ opening, and when Karen bid 3♠, South doubled, responsive. North, I think, should have defended, but he bid 3NT and Karen made a nice double with her heart stack on the side. South would have liked to redouble for takeout, but was not sure of the meaning, so she pulled to 4♣. I doubled, since I had some nice defense in the minors, and North was unsure whether his partner held equal length in the minors or six clubs, so he passed. This scenario resulted in a 100% score for us, when the contract went four down. North said he would still invite Karen to stay at his house in Turkey next year.

Skating on thin ice again, we fell through on the next board.

Board 11	North	
South dealer	♠ 10 7 3 2	
None vul	♥ 3	
	♦ K 9 6	
	♣ K Q 9 8 5	
West		East
♠ A K J 8 4		♠ 9 6
♥ 9 8 6 4		♥ J 10 7 5 2
♦ J 8 7 5		♦ A Q
♣ —		♣ J 7 3 2
	South	
	♠ Q 5	
	♥ A K Q	
	♦ 10 4 3 2	
	♣ A 10 6 4	

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

type of position, since if I pass they will play in 3♣. Karen thought otherwise and took my double at face value, jumping to game. South had her double.

South cashed three top hearts as North signaled for a club shift. South then switched to clubs and this killed the dummy. Karen took a diamond finesse, cashed her next-to-last trump, and took a spade finesse to the jack. When this held, she cashed the top spades, hoping for a miracle 3-3 break, but it wasn't there – down two and a 12% score. She should have taken the precaution of cashing a second diamond before taking the spade finesse. Then she could ruff out the ♦K for one extra trick. But we still would have scored only 31%. Many in the field were set two tricks in 3♣, and a few pairs made 4♥ doubled when South stopped cashing trump honors to try to set up a diamond trick (with a diamond shift at trick two or three).

My second-round double was not a thing of beauty, but I felt it was a “pre-balance”

On the second board of this round, I picked up an 11-count with a singleton spade: ♠ 5 ♥ Q 9 8 2 ♦ A 8 5 ♣ K Q 10 9 3

I was dealer this time, and we were favorable. Still, I stuck to my guns and passed. North passed and partner opened a McCallum 2♠ (though in third seat it could be a better hand than usual and even a six-card suit). This was passed on my right, and I passed. LHO doubled and it went the dreaded pass, pass, to me:

West	North	East	South
pass	pass	2 ♠	pass
pass	double	pass	pass
?			

It's Karen's philosophy never to sit for a doubled contract when it appears to be a poor spot, and I was trying to play her philosophy, but how should I escape? Something told me (perhaps my 10-9 of clubs) to just run to clubs rather than make a fancy redouble or 2NT bid. This turned out to be the winning call, when North saved us with a 3♦ bid. Try this out as a declarer-play hand in 3NT:

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

Your RHO indicates six spades and a weak hand. You reach 3NT and West leads the ♣Q, East following with the 6. What is your plan?

Here's the full hand:

Board 12	North		
West dealer	♠ 4		
N-S vul	♥ A K 6 4		
	♦ K 10 9 7 4 3		
	♣ 8 2		
West (MG)		East (KM)	
♠ 5		♠ K J 10 6 3 2	
♥ Q 9 8 2		♥ J 7 3	
♦ A 8 5		♦ J 6 2	
♣ K Q 10 9 3		♣ 6	
	South		
	♠ A Q 9 8 7		
	♥ 10 5		
	♦ Q		
	♣ A J 7 5 4		

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

Opening lead: ♣Q

When the 3♦ bid came across the bidding screen in the bidding tray, my RHO showed her annoyance. I don't blame her for being upset with her hand, do you? She bid 3NT and everyone passed. I was so happy, I forgot to double this.

I led the ♣Q and, when it held, shifted to the ♥Q, attempting to attack dummy's entries to the diamond suit. Declarer won and led the ♠4 to the 10 and queen. Then she led the ♦Q. Not aware of the precise position, I played low. Declarer next led a heart to dummy and another heart. I overtook and cashed a heart followed by the ♦A but eventually had to give her an extra club trick for down two, an 87% score for the good guys.

[continued on next page]

North  
 ♠ 4  
 ♥ A K 6 4  
 ♦ K 10 9 7 4 3  
 ♣ 8 2

♣ K

South (declarer)  
 ♠ A Q 9 8 7  
 ♥ 10 5  
 ♦ Q  
 ♣ A J 7 5 4

It was actually a fascinating play hand. Declarer could have won the first club lead and led the ♦Q, while she still had the ♥A-K in dummy. When West plays low, declarer must overtake her own queen with the king and continue diamonds (a low one is best). Did you find that play?

On this next board near the end of our session, we had the most scientific auction we ever had to a normal 3NT contract:

Board 15  
 South dealer  
 N-S vul

West (MG)  
 ♠ 8 3  
 ♥ J 7 2  
 ♦ K Q J 3  
 ♣ A Q 10 2

North  
 ♠ 9 6 4  
 ♥ A K 5  
 ♦ 10 9 7 6 5  
 ♣ 8 3

East (KM)  
 ♠ A Q J 5  
 ♥ Q 9 8  
 ♦ A 8 4 2  
 ♣ K 6

South  
 ♠ K 10 7 2  
 ♥ 10 6 4 3  
 ♦ —  
 ♣ J 9 7 5 4

North led out three rounds of hearts and I started to run diamonds. When South showed out on the first round, I could see this would be fun . . . for me, not her. She pitched one club and two spades on the first three diamonds, but on the fourth one she struggled. Not wanting to stiff her ♠K or throw her good heart away, she parted with a second club. I cashed four clubs now and she threw the 13<sup>th</sup> heart to guard the spades, so I made 430 and 60%. If she threw the 13<sup>th</sup> heart instead of the club, I would be able to finesse in spades, setting up the 10<sup>th</sup> trick there. The only trouble was that the auction and play took so long that we did not have time to play the second board and everyone took an average. Oh, well!

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

The last round came up. After a good score on the first board, we received the results through 12 rounds on a sheet of paper from the director (who hands out the results to each pair before the last board). This, of course, distracts everyone from their best play on the last board, but that's the way it goes. We were in first place! Unbelievable. I then looked at my hand and found a way to get us back down to second place. . . .

I opened 1♣ with my 4-4 in the minors, and decided not to rebid 1NT with my paltry major-suit cards. Over 2♦, Karen probed with 2♠, hoping I would bid the notrump with a heart honor. When I didn't she still tried to get me to declare with her 3♥ bid. OK, already! I finally, reluctantly, bid it!

Board 20 • West dealer • All vul

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

West	North	East	South
pass	pass	1 ♦	1 ♠
?			

What would you do with my hand? The choices, all flawed, are:

- pass (but with 9 points?)
- double (but with only three hearts?)
- 1NT (but no stopper)
- 2♦ (but only three-card support)

Not wanting to pass or raise diamonds with three of them — and I certainly was not bidding 1NT vulnerable with 10-x-x — I doubled. Partner bid 2♥, all pass. How bad could it be, a 4-3 fit. . . . But:

Well, if I could double with only three hearts, she could bid 2♥ with only three. I fully agree with her bid. But when South refused to bid again, a savvy decision, and the key cards were offside (♣K in South and ♥Q in North), the contract went three down for a one-percent score. What a way to finish the session!

Board 20  
 West dealer  
 All vul

North

♠ 9 7 4  
 ♥ Q 9 5 3  
 ♦ 10 3  
 ♣ 8 7 5 3

West (MG)	East (KM)
♠ 10 6 2	♠ J 8
♥ K 10 6	♥ J 7 4
♦ K Q 8	♦ A 9 7 5 4
♣ J 10 4 2	♣ A Q 9

South

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

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

The leader board with one more session to go looked like this:

1. Gromova-Gromova (Russia) 60.87%
2. McCallum-Granovetter (USA) 60.77%
3. Henner-Welland – Jacobus (USA) 60.66%

In addition, there were two other American pairs in the top 10, the Levins, and the Stansbys. We went back to our hotels to eat and rest for the ultimate evening session. See you in the October issue.



## The Wizards of Aus

by Ron Klinger

When you have a 10-, 11- or 12-trick hand, it can be tricky to find out whether partner has the specific card(s) needed for a small slam or grand slam. One method I've recommended before is the Kabel 3NT opening, asking for specific aces.

After a 3NT opening, partner responds 4♣ with no aces, 4♦, 4♥, 4♠ or 5♣ to show the ace in the suit bid, 4NT to show two aces not touching, and 5♦ or higher to show two aces touching. After the reply, a notrump rebid by opener asks for specific kings.

Bd. 22	North		
East dealer	♠ 9 7 2		
E-W vul	♥ K 9 6 5 3		
	♦ J 7 5		
	♣ 10 6		
West		East	
♠ 5		♠ 6	
♥ A Q 8 4 2		♥ J 10 7	
♦ K Q 8 4		♦ A 10 6 3 2	
♣ 7 3 2		♣ K 9 8 5	
	South		
	♠ A K Q J 10 8 4 3		
	♥ —		
	♦ 9		
	♣ A Q J 4		

My partner and I used a variation of this convention in the 2006 Open Teams Trials (the hand was played in the Women's Team Trials as well). We use a 4♣ response to show zero or one ace and begin showing two aces with 4♦.

I was South, the asker. When I found out we were missing the ♦A and ♣K, I settled for 5♠. The slam made, however, thanks to North holding the ♣10 with three trumps and East having the ♣K.

You do not need all this science to determine whether partner has the right cards. The following auction provided all the necessary information....

West	North	East	South
Marston	Neill	Grosvenor	Klinger
—	—	pass	3 NT (aces?)
pass	4 ♣ (0 or 1)	pass	4 ♦ (which?)
pass	4 ♥ (0)	pass	4 NT (kings?)
pass	5 ♥ (♥K)	pass	5 ♠
(all pass)			

Opening lead: ♦K

Bd. 22	North	East
East dealer	♠ 9 7 2	
E-W vul	♥ K 9 6 5 3	
	♦ J 7 5	
	♣ 10 6	
West		East
♠ 5		♠ 6
♥ A Q 8 4 2		♥ J 10 7
♦ K Q 8 4		♦ A 10 6 3 2
♣ 7 3 2		♣ K 9 8 5

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Noble</i>	<i>Dyke</i>	<i>Bilski</i>	<i>Wiltshire</i>
—	—	pass	2 ♣
pass	2 ♦ (neg)	pass	3 ♠ (sets trump)
pass	4 ♥ (cue)	pass	4 ♠
(all pass)			

The 4♥ cuebid denied first- or second-round control in clubs and diamonds, in up-the-line cuebidding fashion, so Wiltshire (South) knew the ♦A and ♣K were missing.

This auction was similar:

West	North	East	South
<i>Gill</i>	<i>Nunn</i>	<i>Bloom</i>	<i>Hans</i>
—	—	pass	2 ♦ (art. strong)
pass	2 ♥ (4+ pts)	pass	3 ♠ (sets trump)
pass	4 ♠	(all pass)	

Nunn (North) could also have made the 4♥ cuebid (and why not?), but felt the hand was so weak, he did not want to encourage partner.

This next auction was equally effective:

West	North	East	South
<i>Browne</i>	<i>Kanetkar</i>	<i>Gaspar</i>	<i>Rosendorff</i>
—	—	pass	2 ♣
pass	2 ♦	pass	3 ♠ (sets trump)
pass	3 NT*	pass	4 ♣ (cue)
pass	4 ♥ (cue)	pass	4 ♠
(all pass)			

\*no control in clubs; otherwise he cuebids 4♣

The following two auctions were not as impressive:

West	North	East	South
<i>Jedrychowski</i>	<i>Bagchi</i>	<i>Wyer</i>	<i>Gue</i>
—	—	pass	2 ♣
2 ♥	double	4 ♥	4 ♠
(all pass)			

Notice that North doubled 2♥ but East simply didn't believe it and bid 4♥. This would have been set 800 points if doubled, but it's hard to blame South for bidding his spade suit.

West	North	East	South
<i>Francis</i>	<i>Prescott</i>	<i>Moren</i>	<i>Brown</i>
—	—	pass	1 ♣ (strong)
1 ♥	pass	2 ♣*	5 ♠
(all pass)			

\*cuebid fit for hearts, even though 1♣ was artificial

South started with a strong club and woke up the kibitzers with a 5♠ rebid. Partner, with three trump but nothing else (most likely facing a heart void), gave up.

The Open datum was N-S +490, all players stopping below slam. At three tables declarer made 13 tricks on the ♥A lead. The other five N-S pairs made +480. The N-S datum in the Women's Teams was 730: 6♠ +980 four times, 4♠ +480 twice, and 5♠ +450 twice. Are women more optimistic?



## Building a Better Mousetrap

by Matthew Granovetter

### *Splinter Jump Responses to 2♣*

Are there any systems on your convention card that have not come up in 30 years? OK, this isn't a red-pencil article, but finding more useful meanings for bids that never come up is part of building a better mousetrap.

Recently, I opened 2♣ and rebid 2NT, only to catch my wife with a hand of 4-4-1-4 shape. She bid Stayman, for lack of anything better to bid, and I responded 3♦, no major. Now what? She had about nine points, but there wasn't much to do. She could show a five-card club suit at the four level or she could jump to 4NT quantitative and hope that we locate the 4-4 or 5-4 club fit if we had one....

So I thought about it and wondered why we didn't use 4♦ directly over 2♣ to show this 4-4-1-4 pattern. No reason at all, since that 4♦ bid has never been used in bridge history. Then we could use 4♣ to show 4-4-4-1 shape.

Now what about a singleton in a major? I looked into our bridge notes and noticed something that was very dusty: a jump bid over 2♣ to show a solid or semi-solid suit. Yes, 2♣-3♥/3♠. I tried to think back and remember the last time the 3♥ or 3♠ bid came up. Perhaps in 1968 it came up at a New Jersey sectional, but that was it. So the full method, now available for public consumption is:

Opener	Responder
2♣	3♥/3♠/4♣/4♦ splinters

A couple of examples:

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

2♣	3♠
4♦	4♥
4NT	5♦
6♦	pass

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

2♣	4♣
4NT	pass

One problem: How do you agree a major suit after a 4♣ or 4♦ splinter? It occurred to me that opener's 4♥ or 4♠ over 4♣ or 4♦ should be forcing one round to set trump, on the theory that if opener had a fit, he would have enough strength to make at least 11 tricks, even with wastage opposite the singleton.

Another idea is to play that the jump by responder is the suit *below* the singleton, which may wrong-side some contracts but allows opener to bid the singleton as control asking. Mousetrap builders out there may toy with these ideas and improve "the system." Have fun!



## Hands from Scotland

by Liz McGowan

### Tale of the ♣5

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

West	North	East	South
—	2 ♦ (multi)	pass	2 NT (asking)
pass	3 ♥	pass	3 NT
(all pass)			

Opening lead: ♣K

The contracts on this deal from the Grand Masters Pairs were many and various. One North opened a weak 2♥ and was left to play there, which was not much fun. The East-West pairs that got involved in the bidding and were allowed to play in a minor soon regretted it.

Several pairs bid to 4♠ by South, and one was allowed to make it. West led the ♣K, ducked. He now conceived a simple de-

fensive plan: Cash the ♦A and put partner in with the ♣A to give him a ruff. Declarer gratefully won the ♣J, discarded a loser on the ♥A, drew trump and eventually made his tenth trick with a ruff in dummy.

Three notrump was the other popular contract. It looks hopeless on a club lead. West can discard four hearts on the spades, keeping five winners. But that is not so easy to do when you cannot see South's heart void.

My partner in the West seat, Ken Baxter,\* discarded two early hearts, signalling an odd number. I promptly discarded both my hearts to let him know South had none, but by this time he had thrown a club. Declarer had seven tricks in the bag, and could now exit with a club. Ken had just four winners to cash before leading from the ♥K-10 to give dummy the last two tricks. Ever resourceful, he won the ♣Q, cashed the ♦A and got off lead with the ♣3 to declarer's 5, allowing me to win the last three tricks in diamonds.

Next time South will remember to exit with the 5 of clubs!

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\*Ken Baxter was my partner for the last 12 years. Sadly for me he died in January – apart from being a good friend he was a constant source of good material. — Liz McGowan



## The Switch in Time Forum

by the Granovetters

The following hand was reported in our *Bridge Today Daily* column, but is too good not to show here again in the *Forum*. Going into the last board of the round-of-16 match between Schwartz and Cayne, in the USA Team Trials, the Schwartz team was leading by 158 to 154. This was the action at the first table:

Board 90	North		
East dealer	♠ J 10 6 3		
All vul	♥ 10 9 6		
	♦ A Q 10 8		
	♣ 6 2		
West		East	
♠ 5		♠ 7	
♥ A Q 8 3 2		♥ J 7 5	
♦ 7 6		♦ K J 9 4 3 2	
♣ A Q J 9 4		♣ 10 5 3	
	South		
	♠ A K Q 9 8 4 2		
	♥ K 4		
	♦ 5		
	♣ K 8 7		

West	North	East	South
Seamon	Hurd	Cayne	Wooldridge
—	—	pass	1 ♠
2 ♥	2 ♠	3 ♦	4 ♠
(all pass)			

Opening lead: ♦7

Declarer won the ♦A, ruffed a diamond high, led a spade to the jack, and a heart to the king. West won and continued ♥Q and a heart, and eventually scored two club tricks for down one, 100 to East-West.

At the other table....

West	North	East	South
Willenken	Weinstein	Baze	Levin
—	—	pass	4 ♦
4 ♠	5 ♦	pass	5 ♠
(all pass)			

Opening lead: ♣A

After the Namyats 4♦ opening, showing a strong 4♠ bid, South reached 5♠ when West made a gutsy 4♠ Michaels cuebid and North made a lead-directing 5♦ bid on the way to 5♠. East, Grant Baze, could have doubled 5♦, but perhaps was thinking that the opponents were about to have an accident.

Five spades was slated for down two and a victory for the Schwartz team. But Chris Willenken, West, led the ♣A. When his partner played the 3, he thought that declarer probably held the ♣K and ♦K, which meant his partner held the ♥K and he'd better grab two heart tricks. So the ♥A hit the table next and suddenly declarer made the contract! Cayne gained 12 imps to win the match at the wire.

Obvious shift, anyone? East must play the ♣10 at trick one to tell partner, please, continue clubs, do not shift to hearts.

Here's another great OS hand from the same match....

East dealer	North		East
E-W vul	♠ Q 10 5 3		♠ K J 7
	♥ 2		♥ A K Q 9 7 4
	♦ A K 5 3		♦ J 9
	♣ A J 8 3		♣ K 4
West		South	
♠ 9 8 6		♠ A 4 2	
♥ <span style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 0 2px;">J</span> 10 6 5		♥ 8 3	
♦ 10 7		♦ Q 8 6 4 2	
♣ 10 9 5 2		♣ Q 7 6	

Table One

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

Table Two

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

Opening lead: ♥J

At both tables the contract was 5♦, but at the first table it was doubled. In both cases the ♥J was led. What card should East play on this?

In the match, both Easts played the ♥9, suit-preference for spades (at the table we were watching, East took quite a long time to decide on this). The spade switch eas-

ily set the contract. Both declarers played clubs without a finesse, cashing the ace and leading a low one, establishing a discard of a spade on dummy's ♣J.

For Obvious Shift players, the way to get a spade shift would be to play the ♥4, discouraging (assuming standard carding), since the OS is spades, not clubs, and — most important — we do not give suit-preference at trick one. Both black suits in dummy have two honors, but the spade suit is weaker in HCP, so that's what makes it the OS, according to OS rules.

The problem East was having at the table we were watching, was that he wasn't sure which switch he wanted! For example, if South held the ♠A-9-x and two small clubs, he wanted a club shift. If South held three spades to the ace and ♣Q-10-9, he needs a spade shift; otherwise declarer can win a club shift with the ace, cash two rounds of trump, ruff a heart and lead a club, dropping the queen under East's king. East will be forced to give a ruff-sluff or lead from the ♠K.

On this particular hand, it did not matter what West did at trick two. If he shifted to a club, declarer could still endplay East later, but the ruff-sluff won't help declarer, since he cannot untangle his club tricks in time. Try it!

The point for OS fans, however, is how to signal at trick one. We do not give suit-preference at trick one for two reasons: (1) usually third hand wants the obvious shift, so he doesn't have to waste a high card to get it; and (2) we like to keep our trick-one signal consistent. Have a good month!