

BRIDGE TODAY



Editor: Matthew Granovetter

The Magazine for People Who Love to Play Bridge

Lady Bulldogs

The final match from the World Women's Teams Olympiad — Page 3

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Switch in Time Forum



The first positive rule for identifying the "obvious shift" states:

A suit bid by a defender is the obvious shift.

A reader writes in to ask: "Does this apply to a suit that is shown via a takeout double or conventional two-suit cuebid, but not actually named in the bidding?"

[Answer on page 32.](#)

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Viewpoint

The biggest story of 2004 was the sensational victory of the Russian international women's team in the World Women's Teams Olympiad, in Istanbul, Turkey. In this issue, I've covered the first two sets of the final between Russia and the USA, and we'll look at more of this exciting match next month. Though we were sorry to see the USA lose, we were happy to see such fresh faces, so very enthusiastic and youthful, in the limelight, from a country that up until only a few years ago officially barred the game of bridge altogether!

With this issue we enter our third year of the new, monthly, online *Bridge Today eMagazine*. We launched the original *Bridge Today Magazine* back in 1988 and the first issue in PDF form appeared in March of 2003. Since that first electronic issue, we've already made a number of improvements: (1) an early suggestion by Harvey Bernstein was to divide the text of each page into a top and bottom half, by putting text in one column next to the bridge diagram in the other column (rather than underneath) — that way, if you are reading on your screen, you don't have to go up and down the page with your mouse to see the hand diagram while following the description of the bidding and play; (2) we produced a version for printing and folding with 8 pieces of paper (tip: Brad Coles recently wrote in to tell us that you should print the even number pages first, and then put the paper back into the printer — that way it comes out in the right order for folding); (3) we've added color, first color photos and now with this issue, you'll see heart and diamond symbols in red; (4) links will be added to issues this year, so you can go directly to an article from the first page index — also there are links that go to website pages from within the magazine; (5) we hope to continue with more and more up-to-the-minute reporting.

We would very much appreciate your input as to what you like and what you don't like. Please email me at mgranovetter@bridgetoday.com. If this is your first issue of *Bridge Today*, you'll notice that we like to look at the game from a human viewpoint as well as technical, and with, we hope, a good sense of humor.

News: More and more former subscribers are coming back to *Bridge Today*, as they get used to their computer and the Internet and discover the advantages. And many new people are finding us for the first time online! Writers are coming back, too! I'd like to welcome two old faces and one new one to this issue — Marshall Miles with a new "Are You Thinking Logically?" column (page 19), Mike Lawrence with an article on penalty doubles (page 15) and, from Australia, Ron Klinger ("The Wizards of Aus" — page 30). Ron is well-known to many of you as a player and writer from Sydney.

— Matthew Granovetter

Russia vs USA



Lady Bulldogs

photos by
Ron Tacchi

by Matthew Granovetter

Bulldog boys, move over. Lady bulldogs have arrived: the new Russian Women's Team! This unknown squad defeated three fine teams in the round-of-16, quarterfinal and semifinal of the Women's Olympiad, and now was poised to trounce on the American women in the final.

The USA line up for the first of six sets was Tobi Sokolow and Janice Seamon-Molson in the Open Room, and Marinesa Letizia and Carlyn Steiner (playing a strong club) in the Closed Room. The Russians had one pair they considered their best

partnership, Victoria Gromova and Tatiana "Tanya" Ponomareva, who were sent to the Open Room, while at the other table would be Olga Galaktionova and Maria Lebedeva. Both pairs play the Russian version of the Polish Club, where 1♣ can be a weak notrump or any strong hand.

The Americans had the experience, the know-how, and the confidence. The Russians, however, are spunky, aggressive, bidders. They like to bid directly to the likely contract, a bulldog strategy that's not prevalent these days. Here's a good example — it was the first big swing of the match:

Board 4
West dealer
All vul

North

♠ 10 4 3
♥ J 8 5
♦ J 9 8
♣ 10 8 7 3

West

♠ Q 9 2
♥ 10 4 2
♦ Q 10 7
♣ A Q J 5

East

♠ A 8 5
♥ Q 9 7
♦ A K 6 5 4
♣ 9 4

South

♠ K J 7 6
♥ A K 6 3
♦ 3 2
♣ K 6 2

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Sokolow	Gromova	Molson	Ponomareva
pass	pass	1♦	double
redouble	1♥	pass	pass
1 NT	(all pass)		

In the Open Room, the Americans

stopped in a cozy 1NT contract, making four, when, not surprisingly, all the high cards were with the takeout doubler. In the Closed Room, the East player for Russia bid more aggressively:

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Galaktionova	Letizia	Lebedeva	Steiner
pass	pass	1♦	double
redouble	1♥	1 NT	pass
2 NT	pass	3 NT	(all pass)

Lebedeva freely bid 1NT over North's 1♥, and then accepted a game try (West should have bid 3NT over 1NT, not giving her partner the chance to pass 2NT). There were 10 easy tricks after the spade lead, for +630 and 10 imps to the Russians, who led 12 to 0 after four hands.

On the next board the USA struck back with an unusual sacrifice against a 3NT contract....

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Sokolow</i>	<i>Gromova</i>	<i>Molson</i>	<i>Ponomareva</i>
—	2 ♣	pass	3 NT
4 ♦	pass	pass	double

(all pass)

Opening lead: ♣A

Sokolow's 4♦ bid at favorable vulnerability worked well when she luckily caught her partner with a singleton diamond. If East held a doubleton diamond, 3NT would be set two or three tricks. Gromova (North) led the ♣A and received an encouraging ♣2 (upside-down carding). She now underled her king to partner's queen. Ponomareva

wasn't thrilled with being on lead herself, and got out with the ♥2. Sokolow played the king, led a spade to the ace and took a diamond finesse to the queen, to go off two tricks, -300. North would have held declarer to seven tricks if she had found a spade switch at trick two on the logic that South held the ♠Q-x-x for her jump to 3NT (with four spades, she would investigate a 4-4 spade fit).

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Galaktionova</i>	<i>Letizia</i>	<i>Lebedeva</i>	<i>Steiner</i>
—	1 ♦*	pass	3 NT

(all pass)

*could be short

At the other table, Letizia (North) opened a Precision style 1♦, and this might have inhibited Galaktionova (West) from coming into the auction with 4♦. She led a diamond, and declarer went to dummy for a heart finesse. Galaktionova won the king and played her ♦A, but the king did not fall. She switched to the ♠J, but when declarer played low from dummy, so did East, and declarer took the rest for +660, 8 imps to the USA.

On the next board, the Russians demonstrated again that quick arrival works.



Tobi Sokolow



Marinesa Letizia

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

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Sokolow</i>	<i>Gromova</i>	<i>Molson</i>	<i>Ponomareva</i>
—	—	1 ♦	pass
1 ♠	2 ♥	pass*	pass
2 ♠	pass	pass	3 ♥
3 ♠	(all pass)		

*denies three spades

Sokolow and Molson stopped perfectly in 3♠, with the opponents cold for game in hearts. Ponomareva's failure to raise hearts at her first opportunity would have sent the Russians' coach for a bottle of vodka, had I been the coach. Gromova led her ♣K rather than a top heart. Sokolow won in dummy, drew trump and led another club. The defenders took three red tricks and the USA scored 140.



Olga Galaktionova

Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Galaktionova</i>	<i>Letizia</i>	<i>Lebedeva</i>	<i>Steiner</i>
—	—	1 ♦	pass
4 ♠	(all pass)		

In this room Galaktionova bid the West hand differently, and it was hard to blame North-South for missing game in hearts. Letizia led the ♥A but then the defenders had a signaling accident. According to their convention card, Letizia and Steiner play suit-preference on the lead of a king but not an ace. Yet Steiner followed with the ♥9, which appears to be a suit-preference signal for diamonds. Letizia understood it as a doubleton heart. She continued with the ♥K and another heart. Galaktionova ruffed high in dummy, threw her ♦3, and drew trumps, losing only one more trick in clubs for +620 and 10 imps to Russia, which now led 22-8.

Steiner could have saved the hand by playing her ♥J at the second trick, but was obviously under the impression that her signal wasn't count. In any case, this accident, you should note, would not have taken place if West had responded 1♠ and North had overcalled 2♥. Who said: "You make your own luck"?

On the next board, the enthusiastic Russians were too enthusiastic....



Maria Lebedeva

Board 7
 South dealer ♠ 10 8 6 4 3
 All vul ♥ A 7 3
 ♦ A Q 3
 ♣ A 4

West
 ♠ A K J 7 5 2
 ♥ J 5
 ♦ 8 4 2
 ♣ 9 8

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

Open Room
 South West North East
Ponomareva Sokolow Gromova Molson
 2NT (minors) pass 5 ♦ (all pass)

Conventions do occasionally require judgment. At favorable vulnerability the 2NT bid with a Q-x-x-x-x suit is OK, but all

vul it's too risky. Gromova may have been surprised to see that she had no play in 5♦. At the other table, the Russians bought the contract in a reasonable 3♥ contract:

Closed Room
 South West North East
Steiner Galaktionova Letizia Lebedeva
 pass 2 ♦ (multi) double 2 ♥
 pass 2 ♠ pass 3 ♥
 (all pass)

The defenders began with three rounds of diamonds. Lebedeva knew where the ♥A was so she tried the ♥K, but Letizia (North) held off. The next heart lead was won with the ace, and Letizia switched to ♣A and a club. Declarer played for her contract by finessing, so North received a club ruff to defeat the contract two tricks, 7 imps to the USA, behind now by 7.

On the next hand, both N-S pairs missed a good slam. What went wrong?

Board 8
 West dealer ♠ A K J 10 8 7 5
 None vul ♥ J 6
 ♦ A 5
 ♣ Q 7

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

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

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

Open Room
 West North East South
Sokolow Gromova Molson Ponomareva
 pass 1 ♠ pass 3 NT*
 pass 4 ♦ pass 4 ♠
 (all pass)

*13-15, 4333

Closed Room
 West North East South
Galaktionova Letizia Lebedeva Steiner
 pass 1 ♠ pass 2 ♣
 pass 3 ♠ pass 4 ♠
 (all pass)

Neither South player was willing to cuebid 4♥ with what looked like a minimum game-forcing hand. The question is

whether cooperation in cuebidding under the game level shows anything extra, once partner has initiated a slam try (as both

North players did). It's a good question for your own partnership to discuss. Most top-class partnerships would answer no, the cooperative cuebid *under* game is mandatory. However, the reticence here might have occurred because both Souths were facing limited hands.

On Board Nine, the Americans bought the contract at both tables, down one, so the Russians picked up 5 imps to lead 27 to 15. The Americans were playing down the middle and seemed to be waiting for their opponents to make a serious mistake. On Board 10, it happened, and the USA women bounced back, winning imps on five consecutive boards....

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



Victoria Gromova

After a simple 1♠-2♠-4♠ auction, both Wests played 4♠ against the ♥7 opening lead by North. Both declarers won the lead in hand with the ace as South played the ♥3. Next came the ♠A and a spade to North's king. Ponomareva, in the Open Room, threw the ♥8 — she had already indicated club preference, and now showed a top honor in diamonds as well. This was nice, in case partner held the ♦A instead of the ♣A.

Gromova switched to the ♣6 (fifth best) to the 4 and 10. Ponomareva cashed the ♣K and received the ♣9 from her partner. Perfect — this must be suit-preference for hearts, right? But Ponomareva misunderstood, treating the *first* club lead (the lowest 6) as the suit-preference signal. Playing her partner for both minor-suit aces was not consistent with West's jump to game, so Ponomareva should have returned a heart.

At the other table, Steiner (South) discarded the ♣J on the second trump, also won the club switch and cashed the king, but then gave partner a heart ruff when she saw the ♣9. That was +100 and 12 imps to the USA, tying the score at 27-27 after the first 10 boards.

Perhaps the Americans were surprised by the early Russian aggressiveness, because they now fought back in the next few boards with some old-fashioned "here's some of your own medicine" kind of stuff. They won 2 imps on Board 11, and then:

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

Molson's decision to "hoist them by their own petard" would not be recommended in any of her Florida bridge classes but in the "bulldog arena" it worked charmingly. Ponomareva led a spade. Molson called for the ace, ruffed out the king, led the ♦Q and floated it when South played the 5, then drew trump and discarded two hearts on the ♠J-10. She lost a heart and a club for +400. Easy game.

At the other table, Galaktionova (West) bought the contract at 3♦ after opening 1NT (East transferred to diamonds when North did not bid). The diamond finesse wasn't taken and declarer scored 110, 7 imps to the USA, leading now by 9. The USA increased their lead by 5 imps over the next three boards, and on the last board of the set, it seemed like the USA switched bidding styles with the Russians!

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Sokolow</i>	<i>Gromova</i>	<i>Molson</i>	<i>Ponomareva</i>
1 NT	2♦ (majors)	5♦	(all pass)

Board 16	North		
West dealer	♠ 9 2		
E-W vul	♥ Q 9 7 3		
	♦ J 9		
	♣ K Q J 4 2		
West		East	
♠ 8 5 4 3		♠ A K J 10	
♥ K 8 5 4		♥ J 10 6	
♦ 2		♦ 7 6 5 4	
♣ A 10 6 3		♣ 9 7	
	South		
	♠ Q 7 6		
	♥ A 2		
	♦ A K Q 10 8 3		
	♣ 8 5		

In the Open Room, the Russians bid with delicate judgment, stopping perfectly in a cozy partscore. The Americans took the bulldog approach:

Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Galaktionova</i>	<i>Letizia</i>	<i>Lebedeva</i>	<i>Steiner</i>
pass	pass	pass	1 NT
pass	2♣	pass	2♦
pass	2 NT	pass	3 NT
(all pass)			

Steiner was the heroine as she opened the South hand 1NT and then bid game over the invitation based on her lovely diamond suit. Galaktionova (West) led the ♥4. Steiner put up the queen and led the ♣K. When this won, Steiner tabled her hand, content. The USA gained 7 imps and won the first set 54 to 33, expecting to increase their lead and bring home the gold medals. But the Russians had other ideas....

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
<i>Sokolow</i>	<i>Gromova</i>	<i>Molson</i>	<i>Ponomareva</i>
pass	pass	pass	1♦
pass	1♥	pass	3♦
(all pass)			

Second Set

In the second set, the Open Room foursome remained, switching directions, while in the Closed Room Jill Meyers and Randi Montin came in for the USA against Natalia Karpenko and Irina Vasilkova for Rus-

sia. The USA was leading by 21 imps.

On Board 18, Ponomareva saved a potential loss by executing the famous Vienna Coup, when she could have taken a simple (and sure) finesse instead!

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

Perhaps Ponomareva (West) should have doubled 4♥ as an optional double (since she had shown a long solid minor with her 3NT opening). East would have left it in and made mincemeat of the contract. But Ponomareva took the pragmatic approach, bidding 5♣. Notice that 4NT would not have worked, so of the two choices (4NT and 5♣) she at least reached a makeable contract.

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
Ponomareva	Molson	Gromova	Sokolow
—	—	pass	pass
3 NT	4 ♥	pass	pass
5 ♣	(all pass)		

Molson (North) led three rounds of diamonds. Declarer ruffed with the ♣9 and saw the Vienna Coup position clearly. She drew trumps and trumps and more trumps, never looking back. Then cashed the ♥A and ♠A before playing the last club. North was squeezed. If declarer had stopped after two rounds of trumps to cash the ♥A, she would have seen the ♥J fall from South, and then she could simply finesse the ♥10, reaching dummy with the ♣7. But the Vienna Coup was more fun.

Opening lead: ♦K



Tatiana Ponomareva

At the other table, Meyers opened 2♣ strong with the West cards and, after North overcalled 2♥, and the auction was passed back to her, bid 3NT, ending the auction. Four rounds of diamonds held the contract for an exciting push board.

On Board 19, the Russians overbid slightly to game, down one, while the Americans stopped safely in 2♠ making. So the USA had a 27-imp lead when Board 20 hit the table. Meyers made a cute play here, but fate played its role:

Board 20	North	
West dealer	♠ A Q 7	
All vul	♥ J 9 2	
	♦ 9 6 4	
	♣ Q J 9 8	
West		East
♠ J 8		♠ K 9
♥ Q 6 3		♥ K 10 4
♦ A 10 7		♦ Q J 8 3 2
♣ A K 5 4 3		♣ 10 7 6
	South	
	♠ 10 6 5 4 3 2	
	♥ A 8 7 5	
	♦ K 5	
	♣ 2	

In the Open Room, Ponomareva opened the bidding 1♣ on the West cards and Gromova responded 1NT with the East hand. Sokolow (South) led a spade, of course, and declarer took 8 tricks after a diamond finesse (one spade, five diamonds and two clubs) for a score of 120.

In the Closed Room, Meyers opened 1NT (15-17) on the good 14-point West hand and Montin bid 3NT with the good 9-point East hand. This judicious upgrading resulted in a poor 23-point 3NT. But fate put North on lead, and who could blame her for starting with the ♣Q? Meyers could have scooped this up and returned one, setting up four club tricks (then she would still need a miracle in diamonds). Instead, Meyers made a more clever play, following low on the first trick. This worked particularly well, because the Russians use upside-down carding, and poor South held the singleton deuce (Meyers was happy to see that deuce). Karpenko (North) continued with the ♣9 at trick two. The 10 held in dummy and the ♦Q produced the king from South. How sweet it was. She took nine minor-suit tricks and later an overtrick, for 630 and 11 more imps to the USA, now leading 71 to 33.

Would it be a rout? No. The Russians were refuseniks, as they fought back on the next board in bulldog fashion....

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

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
Ponomareva	Molson	Gromova	Sokolow
—	pass	1 ♣*	2 ♣
(all pass)			

*weak notrump type of hand or very strong hand

In the Open Room, Molson was uncharacteristically quiet, passing Sokolow's natural overcall of the Polish-Russian 1♣ opening. Two clubs made an overtrick and the kibitzers had a good snooze.

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

In the Closed Room, Vasilkova, who was no doubt pushing for something good after her singleton deuce disaster on the previous board, overcalled her four-card major instead of her semi-solid six-card minor. This had the effect of reaching a Moysian 4♥ contract that could not be touched.

She won the spade lead in dummy, took a finesse in clubs, ruffed a club to make sure, and then cashed trumps as the ♥Q obligingly came down. She took the first 11 tricks for 650 and 11 imps back to Russia. The score was USA 71-Russia 44.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Meyers	Karpenko	Montin	Vasilkova
—	pass	1 ♦	1 ♥
pass	2 ♣*	pass	3 ♣
3 ♦	4 ♥	(all pass)	

The next board was a nice one if you like to watch really excellent defense (hands rotated to make South declarer):

*Drury type

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

East-West have 22 HCP, North-South have 18. But for some reason, North-South reached 1NT first in both rooms.

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
Gromova	Sokolow	Ponomareva	Molson
1 ♣*	1 ♥	double	1 NT
(all pass)			

*Polish club with Russian overtones

Gomova led the ♣A and switched to the ♠K. Bye-bye, dummy. Molson won dummy's ♠A, led a spade to her 10 and the ♥3. Gromova, taking no chances where the ♥10 was, put up her queen! Bye-bye, heart suit. Molson won the ♥A and led another heart to East's 10. She cashed two spade tricks, the ♥K and led a club through. South was down to the ♦A-Q and three clubs. Gromova took the ♣J, ♣K and exited with a club. Molson had to play the ♦A and ♦Q at tricks 12 and 13, for down two.

Board 22
 West dealer
 E-W vul

North
 ♠ A 7 6 5
 ♥ A J 9 7 5
 ♦ 8 6 5
 ♣ 2

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

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

South
 ♠ J 10 2
 ♥ 8 3
 ♦ A Q 3
 ♣ Q 10 9 5 4

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Montin	Vasilkova	Meyers	Karpenko
1 ♣	1 ♥	1 ♠	1 NT
pass	pass	double	(all pass)

At the other table, Meyers (East) doubled 1NT on a similar auction, but Montin led a low club on the go. Karpenko (South) won and attacked hearts, leading to the 7 and 10. Meyers returned the ♦J. Karpenko finessed and cleared hearts while the ♠A was still in dummy, so that was seven tricks and 7 imps to Russia.

Six more boards passed as the two teams locked horns and more or less duplicated results. Then on Board 19 the American women broke through to win 14 big imps. They did it by bidding spades.

Sokolow-Molson blasted their way to 4♠ in three bids and put enormous pressure on their opponents to bid 5♦ with their 5-5 fit. But 4♠ would have been two down while 5♦ was beaten one — 200. Nicely done!

Board 29
 North dealer
 All vul

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

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

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

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

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Meyers	Karpenko	Montin	Vasilkova
—	2 ♣	double	3 ♣
4 ♥	5 ♣	double	(all pass)

Here Karpenko began with a natural 2♣ (playing a strong club) and Vasilkova gave a courtesy raise over Montin's takeout double (it was more appealing to overcall diamonds at the one level). When Meyers jumped to game in hearts, Karpenko slipped, perhaps, by not introducing spades. She probably thought it was silly to bid her spades in face of the takeout double on her left, but it would have save a few imps. Montin was ready to pounce on any contract to stop her partner from bidding again. The result was 800 to the USA and 14 imps. The score was USA 91-Russia 51.

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Ponomareva	Molson	Gromova	Sokolow
—	1 ♣	1 ♦	1 ♠
double	4 ♠	pass	pass
5 ♦	pass	pass	double
(all pass)			

On the next board, the Russians bid a close game. . . .

Board 30	North	
East dealer	♠ K Q J 3	
None vul	♥ 9 7 3	
	♦ 9 7 6 3	
	♣ 6 3	
West		East
♠ 6		♠ A 10 8 5 4 2
♥ K Q J 10 4 2		♥ 8 6
♦ A 4		♦ K Q 10
♣ Q 10 9 5		♣ 8 7
	South	
	♠ 9 7	
	♥ A 5	
	♦ J 8 5 2	
	♣ A K J 4 2	

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Ponomareva</i>	<i>Molson</i>	<i>Gromova</i>	<i>Sokolow</i>
—	—	2 ♦ (1)	pass
3 ♣ (2)	pass	3 NT	pass
4 ♥	(all pass)		

- (1) Multi, weak in either major
- (2) Hearts

Molson (North) led the ♠K. Ponomareva won in dummy and started clubs. Sokolow went up with the king and returned a spade, ruffed by declarer. Next came the ♥K, 7, 6, ace. That ♥7 by Molson was a hint. Sokolow cashed the ♣A and led another club for her partner to ruff with the ♥9, the setting trick. Notice that the contract can also be defeated if North holds three small hearts, as long as South ducks one round of trump.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Meyers</i>	<i>Karpenko</i>	<i>Montin</i>	<i>Vasilkova</i>
—	—	2 ♦	3 ♣

(all pass)

Here Vasilkova (South) overcalled Multi with 3♣. Meyers, who suspected which major suit her partner held, decided to play for a plus score. She passed and led the ♥K. The result was down four, 200 to East-West, 6 more imps to the USA.

On the next-to-last hand of the set, the USA gained points once again the old-fashioned way: by playing accurately....



Janice Seamon-Molson



Natalia Karpenko

Board 31 North
 South dealer ♠ Q 8 7 6
 N-S vul ♥ J 7
 ♦ K Q 10 4
 ♣ 10 3 2

West
 ♠ 10 9 4
 ♥ 8 3 2
 ♦ A 8 3 2
 ♣ K Q 8

East
 ♠ A 3
 ♥ 10 6 5 4
 ♦ 7 6 5
 ♣ A 9 7 5

South
 ♠ K J 5 2
 ♥ A K Q 9
 ♦ J 9
 ♣ J 6 4

Open Room

South	West	North	East
<i>Sokolow</i>	<i>Ponomareva</i>	<i>Molson</i>	<i>Gromova</i>
1 NT	pass	2 ♣	pass
2 ♥	pass	2 ♠	(all pass)

Molson's 2♠ was not forcing, showing four spades and invitational values. The

system worked very well here, with declarer off the trump ace, the ♦A, and three club tricks. A trick went away when the defenders did not cash their clubs, so Molson scored 140.

Closed Room

South	West	North	East
<i>Vasilkova</i>	<i>Meyers</i>	<i>Karpenko</i>	<i>Montin</i>
1 NT	pass	3 NT	(all pass)

In the Closed Room, bulldogs Vasilkova-Karpenko bid 1NT-3NT on the North-South cards. These tactics don't always succeed, especially when one hand (the North hand) doesn't resemble the bid.

Meyers led a high spade. Montin won the ace and shifted to a low club. Four club tricks and the ♦A later the USA scored up 200 points for another 7 imps. They finished the set up 101 to 54. Were the Russians going down for the final count? Tune in next month to witness the Russian comeback.



Jill
Meyers



Irina Vasilkova



Randi
Montin



Where Have All the (Penalty) Doubles Gone?

by Mike Lawrence

Many years ago most doubles were for penalty. Then someone discovered the take-out double and later other doubles such as;

Negative Doubles
 Responsive Doubles
 Support Doubles
 Lead Directing Doubles
 Maximal Doubles
 Action Doubles
 Optional Doubles
 And perhaps a few dozen more.

If you pick up a book on bridge today, if it talks about doubles, it is odds on that it is talking about one of the above doubles.

What has happened to Penalty Doubles?

This brief article is intended to scratch the surface of that ancient but still venerable and most important penalty double.

There is an art form to making penalty doubles. The most common reason for making a penalty double is that you have a lot of trumps.

But there are other reasons for doubling other than lots of trumps. This article will look at a few standard situations where you may or may not double someone.

West dealer
 Both sides vulnerable

South	West	North	East
1 ♥	pass	2 ♣	2 ♦
?			

♠ A 10 4
 ♥ A Q J 4 2
 ♦ Q 9 8 6
 ♣ 8

If you are using a two-over-one bid as forcing to game, you know your partner has a good hand and he knows that you have five hearts. Double 2♦. This is a penalty double and if North sits for it, you should do very well.

I can hear an objection that your side has a game so should bid a game and not risk setting them only one or two tricks.

Since you have shown your hearts, you do not have to worry that you will miss 4♥. Your double is a strong suggestion but it is not an emphatic demand. Your partner will think fondly about passing, but he won't do that if he has a clear reason to do something else.

As for setting them just one or two tricks, it may turn out that your side has a misfit, in which case your "game values" may not reach as far as you would normally expect them to. Here is a possible layout:

Note that your double of 1NT is a penalty double. It is not Negative. If anyone tries to sell you that little idea, tell them that you have a much better idea.

South dealer
No one vulnerable

South	West	North	East
—	—	—	1 ♣
double	3 ♣	3 ♠	4 ♣
?			

♠ K J 9
♥ A K 6 3
♦ A 9 7 3
♣ K 7

Double. Your partner knows that you do not have lots of club tricks. The opponents are not that crazy. What they have is clubs and opener is trying to steal or to nudge you higher.

Your double says you have a big hand with only three spades. If you had four spades, you would usually bid four spades, and if you had two spades, it is unlikely that you would have made a takeout double initially.

This double is not absolutely for penalty. But it is likely that North will pass it. Whatever he does will be in light of the fact that you have a good hand with three spades.

South dealer
North-South vulnerable

South	West	North	East
1 ♦	double	redouble	2 ♣
?			

♠ J 10
♥ K 3
♦ A J 8 7 4
♣ Q J 5 3

Double. It might be Christmas. If North can sit for this double, it means he has a couple of clubs. It is possible that West has made a takeout double with less than normal club support and East is going to pay a price for it.

Note that South does not bid 2♦ and does not bid 2NT and does not pass. Passing to say you have a minimum hand is terrible, since you know you have clubs and partner does not.

North dealer
No one vulnerable

South	West	North	East
—	1 ♠	double	4 ♠
?			

♠ 9 3
♥ A 9 2
♦ J 9 6 5
♣ A 10 6 4

Double. You have two defensive tricks and given North's takeout double, your side rates to have the balance of power. The opponents are trying to take 10 tricks in spades with only 17 or 18 points. They may be able to do it, but you have to double for quite a few reasons. First, they are bidding preemptively and even though they may have a magic fit and can make it, if you do not double, your opponents will know you are a soft touch and will run all over you in the future.

South	West	North	East
—	1 ♠	double	4 ♠
double			
♠ 9 3			
♥ A 9 2			
♦ J 9 6 5			
♣ A 10 6 4			

There is some psychology at work here.

Note that some players use responsive doubles when partner makes a takeout double and the next player raises. You have to decide if your double of 4♠ is responsive or penalty. The fact is that whether you play penalty doubles here or not, your doubles will all look the same. You won't have spade tricks on this sequence. But you may have values. This is a typical double of four spades on the bidding shown.

South dealer
East-West vulnerable

South	West	North	East
—	—	—	1 ♥
double	pass	1 ♠	2 ♥
?			
♠ Q 7 3			
♥ A 10			
♦ Q J 7 6			
♣ A K Q J			

Double. This double is not actually penalty. The other doubles in this discussion were either penalty or strongly leaning to penalty. The double on this sequence is a special conventional double saying that you have your original takeout double but you have only three trumps for partner. Also, since your partner may be broke, you promise around 18 points for this bid. It is a very handy agreement to have.

South	West	North	East
—	—	1 ♥	pass
2 NT	3 ♠	pass	4 ♠
?			
♠ Q 3			
♥ A J 8 7			
♦ K J 8 2			
♣ Q 7 6			

Your 2NT bid is forcing to game, promising four or more trumps and a balanced hand. When East bid 4♠ you should double it. You have minimum values for hearts and no particular interest in your partner bidding 5♥.

Of some note is the fact that North passed over 3♠. There are some useful agreements about what pass shows. I will

not go into it here but can tell you that you must have agreements on handling competition when you use the 2NT response and they overcall. If you do not have an agreement, then you know how frustrating it can be.

Which leads me to make a suggestion that has nothing to do with doubles. If your LHO bids one of a major and your RHO bids 2NT, showing a game-forcing raise, I suggest you check the vulnerability and overcall on any five-card suit that you want partner to lead. You do not need a good hand for this. Most of the time your opponents will be confused about what their bids mean and if you should be doubled, it is unlikely that you will be doubled. And, when they finish their bidding, your partner will find a good lead.

One fast example.

South	West	North	East
—	1 ♥	pass	2 NT
?			

♠ K Q J 8 7
♥ 5 3 2
♦ 4 3
♣ J 8 3

If they are vul and you are not, you should bid 3♠ with this hand.

South	West	North	East
—	—	1 ♥	2 NT
3 ♥	5 ♣	pass	pass
?			

♠ A 7 6 3
♥ J 10 6
♦ K J 7 3
♣ 7 3

Take a chance and double. The odds are that West is bidding 5♣ as a sacrifice. He probably hopes not to be doubled, but since you have two likely defensive tricks and since you are facing an opening bid, doubling them is the percentage action.

Finally, a hand that allows you to take advantage of your system.

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

♠ A K 5 4 3
♥ J 4
♦ K Q J 8
♣ 4 2

You may bid 3♦ but why bother? If North has diamonds he will bid them. If North has good hearts he will bid them again. And if North has spade support he will show it.

If North wishes to bid 3NT, that will be fine with you and if he wishes to double 3♣, you will love it. But you will get this result only if you pass and let him do that. Now if you had a fifth diamond, a message that you would not be able to convey if you passed, bidding 3♦ would make more sense. Or if you had heart support, showing that would usually be the winning action. And, if you had such a good spade hand that you

did not want to double 3♣, bidding 3♠ is wise.

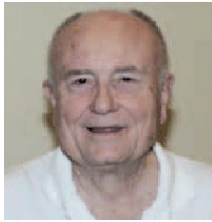
With the example hand given, passing and not getting in your partner's way is probably best. Good luck!

Are You Thinking Logically? by Marshall Miles

Without adverse bidding, you get to 6♣ with the following hands:

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

The opening lead is the ♦Q. What is your plan? [Solution on next page.]



Solution to Are You Thinking Logically?

by Marshall Miles (from previous page)

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

Against 6♣, West led the ♦Q. Without playing a single round of trumps, you should play three rounds of hearts to dis-

card your spade loser. Then the ♣A and attempt to ruff the third round of diamonds. RHO would overruff, but it is with his natural trump trick.

Since you have six hearts in the two hands and only five diamonds, there is a slightly greater chance of the third round of hearts being ruffed, but the ruff is not necessarily fatal. The declarer against us ruffed the third round of diamonds first, and when that was overruffed, partner cashed the ♠A. Suppose RHO ruffs the third round of hearts. You will still discard your losing spade, hoping that RHO has started with two or three trumps. If the latter, he will have ruffed with a natural trump trick and you can still try to ruff the third round of diamonds.

What Do You Bid and Why?

Preview

North dealer
East-West vul

West	North	East	South
—	1 ♦	2 ♣	double
redouble*	2 ♠	3 ♣	4 ♠
5 ♣	?		

You, North, hold, at matchpoints:

♠ J 10 9 2
♥ Q 6
♦ A K J 7 3 2
♣ 10

*promises a top club honor in their agreement

What do you bid and why?

Discussion begins on the next page.



What Do You Bid and Why?

by Pamela Granovetter

I had the pleasure of returning to serious tournament play this past November, at the Orlando Nationals. My partner was Migry Zur-Campanile, fellow *Bridge Today* columnist and world-champion. My bidding style might be termed “Old New York” whereas Migry’s is Israeli/European. As we were preparing a system and practicing together on OKbridge, her bidding ideas sometimes seemed very strange to me, so I would poll my more-active-bridge-playing friends to find out if I’m out-of-touch or if this is a matter of American vs. European bidding styles. My “polls” sometimes revealed that I stand alone on certain issues, like sound opening bidding (but alone or not, I still think I’m right on this issue).

In any event, it turned out to be quite a refreshing experience for me to match my bidding methods/approach with a player who had been brought up bridgewise in a completely different background: US vs Europe, which shall win? This was the source of many fruitful and long conversations, which helped both of us understand each other’s position and to put together a system that, we hoped, would reflect very well our combined thinking on many vexed issues. So we added a little sprinkle of Multi

2♦ with a dash of Switch in Time and cooked it slowly in a “Mayfair Club” sauce to make a nice tasty 2/1 roast!

In Orlando, we were to play in nine straight sessions: the opening evening’s charity game, a two-day Life Master’s Women’s Pairs and a two-day Women’s Board-a-Match Teams. The first seven sessions went well and we finished in the top 10 of the charity game, second in the pair game, and were tied for the lead after the first day of the team game (our teammates were Sue Weinstein and Darlene Hammond).

It seems like most of our misunderstandings were saved for the final day. The one I would like to discuss in this article is an auction that generated the most post-mortem interest, both at the tournament itself and later, via an email poll. Have you tried the preview problem on the previous page? If so:

1. Do you think a pass by North is forcing?
2. If it’s forcing, what is your call with the North cards? And if pass is not forcing, what is your call?

- 1) You are taking an anti-majority view (so, what else is new?).
- 2) It is an interesting discussion.
- 3) Is VUL a factor?
- 4) What should partnership notes and agreements say? Is there a default?
- 5) I would lead a diamond, for sure.

Best wishes,
LC

From Eddie Kantar:



Hi. When I looked at opener's hand, my thought was "this is a forcing auction" and I don't want to hear 5♠ so I'm doubling 5♣. When opener passes 5♣, expressing doubt, I think responder has to bid 5♠ with that hand. After a negative double of a two-level overcall followed by a jump to game by either player, forcing passes are on at the five level. Anyway, that is what I concluded in my booklet on forcing passes. (I can't believe that an opening bid followed by a two-level negative double followed by a jump to game doesn't create a forcing pass at the five level. Give me a break!) — *Eddie*

[Pamela: We have asked Eddie to send us his booklet on forcing passes, and he has given us permission to present it to you in the February and March issues of *Bridge Today Magazine*.]

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

♠ Q 4			♠ A 8									
♥ 7 3		<table border="1" style="border-collapse: collapse; width: 40px; height: 40px; margin: auto;"> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W</td><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		♥ A 10 2
	N											
W		E										
	S											
♦ 10 9 6 4			♦ Q 8									
♣ A Q J 9 7			♣ K 6 5 4 3 2									

♠ K 7 6 5 3
 ♥ K J 9 8 5 4
 ♦ 5
 ♣ 8

West	North	East	South
—	1 ♦	2 ♣	double
redouble	2 ♠	3 ♣	4 ♠
5 ♣	?	pass	?

From Mike Lawrence:



I am inclined to think that doubling with the North hand is best. You need a huge hand from South to make 5♠ viable, and passing over 5♣ should be forcing. Hard to imagine a set of rules that would include this auction as an exception. — *Mike*

From Chip Martel:



An interesting and tricky hand, I think. First a side comment.

If playing light opening bids, ♠ A Q 9 2 ♥ A 6 2 ♦ K 7 6 3 2 ♣ 10 is probably a 3♠ bid after 1♦-(2♣)-DBL-(RDBL), so your example hand isn't too likely.

MORE:

Martel: As to the bidding theory issues, I'd disagree with your expert friends about this auction: A negative doubler who jumps to game is not preempting (since the negative doubler is presumed to be relatively balanced, the normal case). As an aside, my rules for forcing passes (almost) never use vulnerability [the only exception is (3X)-DBL-(5X), which we play forcing except when NV versus VUL].

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

West	North	East	South
—	1 ♦	2 ♣	double
redouble	2 ♠	3 ♣	4 ♠
5 ♣	?	pass	?

However, some auctions are pretty universally (and sensibly) played as non-forcing if the opps bid again: 1♥-(1♠)-4♥ or 1♠-(2♥)-2♠-(3♥)-4♠. In each of these auctions the 4M bid might well have been intended as an advance save.

[Pamela: True, but responder's bidding "sounds" weak. In our discussion hand, responder does not sound weak, despite the failure to cue-bid.]

Martel: Perhaps your expert friends were confusing these types of auctions with the actual one (where it would be weird to bid 4♠ as an advance save, a save

against what?). Or perhaps they rely on a simple rule for forcing passes (jumps to game do not create a force unless we have already shown near game-forcing values). This last has some merit even though inferior in theory, since at least you know when a force applies.

Finally, as to the actual bridge decision, I think both North and South have close decisions. For North, the weak spades and ♥Q-x argue for DBL, the stiff club and 6-4 shape for pass. As to South, the stiff D and weak hand argue for DBL, but the 5-6 shape for bidding. My personal blame rating is 50% to North, 25% South and 25% to bad luck for the hands fitting poorly.

Teammates (and partners) should understand that its impossible to get all these hands right. Often you can't know what is right even looking at your partner's hand (it depends on the opponents' shape and honor location). So, how can you always be right when you are only guessing what your partner has?

[Pamela: By the way, if North doubled 5♣, what would you (South) lead?]

Martel: Definitely a D. I'm a believer in "lead your stiff." — Best regards, *Chip*

P.S. I asked Kit Woolsey about the hand. He thought it was obvious that pass was forcing (and he tends not to play many forcing auctions). He also said he would pass with the 4-6 hand (mostly just showing a stiff club in his opinion), but agreed the 5-6 hand had a reasonable 5♠ bid. I suggested that since it was unlikely to be right to bid 5♠ (with opener's hand) DBL was best, even with 4-6 and a stiff, but didn't convince him. So obviously there's no expert consensus here! — *Chip*

From Eric Kokish:

[Pamela: First I gave Eric only the auction and asked if he thinks the pass of 5♣ is forcing.]

Eric: Yes, because the two-level NEG DBL showed values and the player who made it raised a minimum bid to game (clearly not preemptively), even though there were stronger actions available. Apart from that, there's no money in defending 5♣ undoubled — if they can make it, we should save; if they can't, we should double.

[Pamela: I asked Eric what he would do with the North hand, assuming the pass is forcing.]

Eric: An easy pass. While North has better offense than defense, she can't bid 5♠ in front of her partner. Pass suggests a useful offensive hand, typically with one club or three. Although with three it's more interesting to bid because partner, with shortness, won't know whether I have a wasted C honor.

[Pamela: Finally, I asked Eric what he thought of South's 5♠ bid.]

Tough to get this right, but South's singleton club is quite likely to be duplicated and North will have stuff in diamonds, so double is not out of the question. It's too difficult for North to double with almost all offense. That's why the game is so much fun. Your instinctive evaluation needs to take into account much more than just your 13-card environment, and even then, it's not easy to come to the right conclusion.

Best wishes, *Kokes*



North dealer	♠ J 10 9 2		
E-W vul	♥ Q 6		
	♦ A K J 7 3 2		
	♣ 10		
♠ Q 4		♠ A 8	
♥ 7 3		♥ A 10 2	
♦ 10 9 6 4		♦ Q 8	
♣ A Q J 9 7		♣ K 6 5 4 3 2	
		♠ K 7 6 5 3	
		♥ K J 9 8 5 4	
		♦ 5	
		♣ 8	
West	North	East	South
—	1 ♦	2 ♣	double
redouble	2 ♠	3 ♣	4 ♠
5 ♣	?	pass	?

Summing up, Eric Kokish said it all when he said “that’s why the game is so much fun.” You can have a bad board and yet it’s sooooo much fun to talk about it, argue about it, discuss it, twist it and turn it. As everybody knows, the important thing is for partners and teammates to take these results in stride, because surely there is no way to avoid them altogether.

A key point, however, is that much of the guesswork/confusion here (and in similar competitive-bidding calamities) is created by the light-opening-bid style. My friends in the bar mentioned that it’s unclear our side even owns half the deck in high-card points, and, therefore, how can we claim “ownership” of the hand? Playing the sound-opening-bid style, North-South are a huge favorite to “own” the hand, and the partnership needn’t

forfeit informative forcing-pass sequences because the opponents happened to bid a vulnerable game. However, even if you like the light-opening-bid style, I think it’s just plain easier to assume that freely bid games are not preemptive, except for the standard non-forcing sequences mentioned by Chip Martel, and you should, therefore, employ forcing passes after your side has opened the bidding and reached game.

The Last Word

This is my column, so I get the last word! Once you decide to play that North’s pass of 5♣ is forcing, I think it’s wise to follow Eddie Kantar’s and Mike Lawrence’s sugges-

tion that you double to stop partner from bidding 5♠, a contract that is very unlikely to make opposite the North hand. In addition to getting a better result on the actual or similar hands, you warn partner that 5♠ is unlikely to make, and save him from feeling bad if he fails to make a double-dummy guess in pass-out seat. As Eric Kokish and Chip Martel stated, you can’t be right on every hand, but I think a partnership’s effectiveness is consider-

ably stronger if each player’s bidding means as much as possible. Passing 5♣ with the North hand to show an offensive hand is understandable, but you opened the bidding with 11 HCP in the first place *because* you had an offensive hand; now it’s time to convey the information that you have a minimum hand or minimum trumps for your

North dealer		♠ J 10 9 2	
E-W vul		♥ Q 6	
		♦ A K J 7 3 2	
		♣ 10	
♠ Q 4			♠ A 8
♥ 7 3			♥ A 10 2
♦ 10 9 6 4			♦ Q 8
♣ A Q J 9 7			♣ K 6 5 4 3 2
		♠ K 7 6 5 3	
		♥ K J 9 8 5 4	
		♦ 5	
		♣ 8	
West	North	East	South
—	1 ♦	2 ♣	double
redouble	2 ♠	3 ♣	4 ♠
5 ♣	?	pass	?

previous bidding. The double of 5♣ cannot possibly show a club stack, so it must mean something else and I think the meaning is clearly: “I don’t think we can take 11 tricks on this hand.”

Now for a psychological point: Your opponents won’t continue to give you so many headaches in the bidding if they *know* you’re going to whack them when they step out of line, rather than going like a pussycat or allow yourselves to be pushed around! For this reason alone, I prefer to play this auction forcing, and if they occasionally make a doubled contract, they’ll still know the double is coming next time, too.



Around the World with 52 Cards

by Migry Zur-Campanile



Once upon a time the young Lydéric, returning from the fields, witnessed the slaughter of his family at the hands of the evil Phinéart. He was then raised by a hermit, who let a deer give him her milk and gave him an axe as a toy. Years passed... and Lydéric could chop down a tree with a single blow of his axe! At last, the time for revenge came. He challenged Phinéart to a duel and killed him. King Dagobert rewarded Lydéric for ridding his kingdom of the evil knight by granting him Phinéart's possessions and elevating him to nobility.

No, do not worry: This is still *Bridge Today* and not some novelette from Fantasy&SF. What I just related is the legend of Lydéric and Phinéart, the founders of Lille, the host city of the 1998 World Bridge Championships and this month's bridge travelogue.

I admit that my expectations were very high before the trip: I love France and everything French and I also felt very much in form. Only a few months earlier I had won the Ladies Generali World Masters and my partner, Ruti Levit, had finished in fourth place, so we were considered one of the favorites in the coming World Ladies Pairs.

We got to Lille on August 22 and soon found out that Lille was indeed a very nice place to be: for an umbrella manufacturer! Never in my life have I experienced so

much rain. It would drizzle and then turn into showers, then revert to a steady down-pour, stop for a while and, just when you thought the sun was about to break the persistent cloudy siege, it would start raining again. Buckets, cats and dogs... we soon ran out of expletives...oops, I mean adjectives, to describe it. If there is anyone out there who is interested in studying rain, Lille is for you.

Despite the dreadful weather, we still managed to find some interesting spots to while away the pre-tournament hours. For a start I was forced to spend quite a few mornings re-supplying my wardrobe with winter items in order to brave this unusual version of late summer weather. Going up and down the boulevards, checking out and trying on the latest creations of the local couturiers can be a very tiresome task as the girls out there will know all too well. Then we discovered the Braderie, one surviving relic of the city's rich history as a center of the textile trade, which used to be the market at which, once a year, servants could put up for sale their masters' cast-off possessions. Today it is Europe's biggest flea market. On the first weekend in September, you can buy second-hand goods from stalls which, they assured me, placed end to end would stretch all the way to Paris. More than a million people attend the market each year and they witness positively medieval scenes of carousing, as the restaurants compete to serve the most moules frites —



The Wizards of Aus

Hands from Australian Tournaments

by Ron Klinger

Try these two problems from the NSW-BA* Interstate Teams Selection.

Problem One

North (dummy)

♠ K 7 4
♥ J 9
♦ K 7 6 5 4
♣ 7 6 2

♣ 4

South (you)

♠ A Q 10 8 6
♥ A K Q 8
♦ J 10 3 2
♣ —

In your estimation you need a big swing to qualify for the final. After you opened 1♠ and partner raised to 2♠, RHO bid 3♠, showing a minor suit and asking West to bid 3NT with spades stopped. You double and it goes pass, pass 4♣ back to you. You bid 6♠! West leads the ♣4 to East's queen. You ruff, draw trumps in three rounds, East discarding one club and then you cash four hearts as East follows three times and discards another club. You are down to one trump and four diamonds in your hand. How do you play the diamonds?

*New South Wales Bridge Association

Problem Two

North (dummy)

♠ Q J 9 6 4
♥ 4
♦ 8
♣ K Q 7 4 3 2

West (you)

♠ A 3
♥ Q J 10 7 6 5 3
♦ J
♣ 10 8 5



South deals and opens 2♣, strong, and you jump to 4♥. North bids 5♣ and South 5♦. North bids 5♠ and South 6♦. You lead the ♠A.

On this trick partner plays the 7 and declarer the 5. You are playing upside-down count and attitude, with attitude given at trick one. What do you play at trick two?

Solutions

Problem One

To reach Stage 2 of the NSWBA Interstate Teams Selection, Ed Barnes and Nick Hughes needed a big final session. They made it, thanks to this fine effort by Barnes:



The Switch in Time Forum

Questions and answers based on the “obvious shift principle” and other defensive methods in the book “A Switch in Time”

The following question was sent to us by an old friend, Bob Quinn:

For purposes of deciding the “obvious” shift after holding the opening lead, is a suit shown but not actually named as in the case of an unusual notrump overcall, a Michaels cue-bid, or a two-suit takeout double, the equivalent of having actually been named?

So for instance, West makes a two-suit takeout double:

North (dummy)

♠ K J x x
♥ A Q x x
♦ Q x x
♣ J x

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

Opening lead: ♠A

Is clubs the “obvious shift” because it was a “bid” suit via West’s two-suit takeout double? Or is it diamonds, a three-card suit headed by at most one honor, because the club suit was never actually named, although it was shown?

Bob, this is a good question. A suit shown through a conventional call should count as a “bid suit.” So if East discourages on the spade lead, it would ask for a club switch, a suit West has “bid.”

Maybe this is the layout and a low club shift defeats the contract (three rounds of clubs promote a trump trick)!

Readers, submit questions on defensive signaling to info@bridgetoday.com. Read “A Switch in Time” and play the system with your favorite partners.

Good luck at the table,
Matthew and Pamela Granovetter

North (dummy)

♠ K J x x
♥ A Q x x
♦ Q x x
♣ J x

West	East
♠ A 10 x x	♠ Q x x x
♥ —	♥ J 10 x
♦ J 10 x x	♦ x x x x
♣ A 10 x x x	♣ K x

South

♠ x
♥ K 9 x x x x
♦ A K
♣ Q x x x