



# Make a Safe Lead Against 6NT

**A**t the start of a hand, ask yourself what you are trying to achieve. If you defend actively, you want to achieve something positive. You might lead from K-J-4-3-2 against 3NT to set up long cards. Active defence tends to involve risk taking; leading from a broken suit often costs if partner has no high card in the suit. You must weigh up the risk against the potential gain. When the opponents bid to 6NT, partner often has a near bust, making it highly risky to lead from a broken suit.

If you defend passively, you aim to give nothing away. A typical passive lead is from a worthless holding. You are unlikely to give declarer anything he could not do for himself. However, layout A shows that even this is risky.

**Layout A**

♠ K J 5						
♠ 9 8 7 4	<table border="1"> <tr><td>N</td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>S</td></tr> </table>	N	E	W	S	♠ Q 6 3
N	E					
W	S					
		♠ A 10 2				

You choose to lead a spade but that allows declarer three easy spade tricks. Left to his own devices, he might have had to take the two-way finesse for the queen and guessed wrongly.

While you cannot avoid all risk in life, leading from rubbish is certainly safer than leading from isolated honours. Moreover, the longer your suit is, the safer the lead. A doubleton lead is less safe than leading from three or four low cards, as you can see on layout B.

**Layout B**

♥ Q 10 2						
♥ 7 4	<table border="1"> <tr><td>N</td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>S</td></tr> </table>	N	E	W	S	♥ J 6 5 3
N	E					
W	S					
		♥ A K 9 8				

West's heart lead finds East's jack for declarer. Yes, declarer could have finessed East for the jack. In practice, he would probably have taken his three top hearts in the hope the jack dropped.

For sure, some magical leads are both active and passive. If you have a suit of K-Q-J-10-9, you don't have to agonise over whether to defend actively or passively, or whether an opponent has bid the suit. You just lead the king and get the best of all worlds.

Most players are well aware that the denomination of a contract affects your opening lead. You try to set up length winners against most contracts in no-trumps, often taking considerable risks to do so. That is a pointless approach if your opponents have a good trump suit. They will simply draw your trumps and trump any length winners you play.

Fewer people know that the level of the contract also makes a difference, in particular the difference between 3NT and 6NT. Look at hands C and D.

<b>Hand C</b>	<b>Hand D</b>
♠ K J 4 3 2	♠ K Q 3
♥ A 4 2	♥ A 4 2
♦ 9 8 7	♦ 9 8 7 2
♣ 9 8	♣ 6 5 4

With hand C, after a bidding sequence 1NT-3NT a lead of the three of spades is clear-cut. If partner has the queen or ace, you expect that the contract will go down by means of four spade tricks and the ace of hearts for your side.

By contrast, if the opponents have bid 1NT-6NT, a spade lead is terrible. If your opponents are at all competent, your partner cannot hold the ace or queen. All a spade lead will achieve is to gift an easy trick to declarer's queen or even ten. It might well be declarer's twelfth trick! You should aim to give

nothing away – lead a diamond on the theory that a trebleton lead is safer than a doubleton, as we saw with layout B.

With hand D, it would be silly to lead your king of spades against 3NT. You should lead a passive diamond and hope that your spade honours are sitting over declarer's ace. Against 6NT, it is equally obvious to lead the king of spades. This sets up the queen as a winner, which you can cash when you get in with your ace of hearts.

In each case, you have been asking yourself what you want to achieve (five tricks against 3NT – just two tricks against 6NT) and weighing up whether your lead is likely to achieve it. Hand C brings us neatly to our maxim: *Lead safely (or passively) against 6NT*. In general, you are highly unlikely to gain the lead often enough to establish and cash winners; so just concentrate on giving nothing away. Hand D is a bit of an exception to this.

My final hand is also an exception. You have hand E. The bidding is as shown below. What do you lead?

**Hand E**

♠ K 4 3 2
♥ 6 4 3 2
♦ A 5
♣ 8 7 2

West	North	East	South
	1♦	Pass	2♥
Pass	3♦	Pass	3NT
Pass	6NT	End	

Declarer and dummy have long suits, which declarer will probably run if you give him time. You need to establish a spade trick while you still have the ace of diamonds. Lead your two of spades and pray that partner has the queen. You have nothing to lose!

# BRIDGE COVER CARTOON BU

Hallo! I made a Jump Bid! June Chaplin, Eastbourne. Keep them coming! Mrs G Osborn, Potters Bar. I'm Ace. I'll beat you all! Mrs Clark, Lewes. An Easter Bunny at the Easter Pairs! Ronald Carlisle, Spades for show, clubs for dough. Moira Mokeland, Glasgow. Alice, where heart thou? Bert Howard, Derby. Do play hearts, my dears! Mrs K G Stacey, Bamet. Can I be the devil's bedpost? Mr B A Macfarlane, Stratford. I'll chase the ace for you Anna Miller, Liverpool. No, I'm not your usual rabbit! Mrs I Wilson, Edinburgh. Who's hanging on to the ace? Mrs P Jones, Whyteleafe. Hello Benjamin. Are you going to jump? Sandra Williams, Derbyshire. I told you to get a "rabbit" Janice Thompson, Ayr. Is this the bunny club? Mr G M Warcup, Lytham St Annes. Which way to the tea party? Jennifer Nixon, Newcastle. Hare claimed I bid six clubs, counting disaster. Stella Graesser, Denbigh. Is he the hare to the throne? Mrs H Biddle, Nantwich. Thought I would try a different suit. Mr S P Wilde, Leeds. Ten pence a point ok with you? Mr M A Wright, Sutton. Can I join the club? Albert Thompson, Co. Durham. Hello, I'm the ace! Mrs G E Castleton, St Annes on Sea. Don't give me the three card trick! Mr E A Payne, Stockport. How clever to open two clubs. Rosalind Bremner, Wirral. Any tricks from your hat Mr Rabbit? Margaret Leuick, Glasgow. Why do some partners rabbit? Mr G Plant, Keston, Kent. Bridge! Bridge! To cross a river? Margaret White, Northumberland. Wot no ace. Mr & Mrs Bumford, Neumarket. I'm the biggest rabbit in the club. Roy Barber, Dronford. Je n'ai pas de coeur. John Percival, Sheffield. (I have no heart) Used to shoot at Bisley Robin Bennet, West Kirby. I told him to 'hop it' but... Janet Dineen, Eastbourne. Harvey pulls tricks out of the hat. Ronald Holton. Do not jump bid too early. Mr W Tunkel, London N13. C'mon jump bid you clubs. Mrs P Benson, West Sussex. Be kind! I'm a rabbit at bridge. Lady Hixabe, Leyburn. I've brought my lucky rabbit's foot tonight. Mrs I Franklin, Southport. When you jumped you frightened them off. Mr E V Wingfield, Romford. Has anyone got a bigger table? Mr D Hartley, Bury. 3 Clubs! Must be a pre emp! Alan Flaxen, Merseyside. I see no problems with you three. Mrs A Aldcroft, Stockport. King, Queen, Knave, Alice, where art thou? Miss J Hare, Sutton Coldfield. Are you 'thumper' bound? Mrs J Robinson, Cheshire. How about making up a four? Mrs J P Hamison, Norwich. As long as you don't hog the cards. Wilfred Parry, Oswestry. You must be the prepared club! Mrs V Hsieh, Invernesshire. I'm in bridge books too! Alan Wilson, Haallow. I promise not to renege again Peter. Beth Slevin, Wigan. Some small bunnies are hard to beat. Dr R M Pulver, London NW8. Mad March hares favour thumping systems. Monica Davies, Sutton. Do you need forth person? Mr & Mrs McPherson, Perth. No I haven't swallowed the ace. Denise Shore, Moberley. Sorry! You are too late for March. Peter Tyers, Glenfield. Shall we cut for partners? Helena Moss, London, N20. I will be your partner any time. Mrs G R Ford, Wendover. He's one trick we don't need! Sylvia Andrews, Shipston On Stour. I had a partner like that once. Pat Schurman, London N6. By tomorrow I'll produce another twenty players. Miss N Bailey, Lincs. Don't hop, a jump bid will do. Denis Hussard, Cleveland. Or would you rather play golf? George McVicar, London SW1V. Join our club and become an ace. Mr A S Grottick, Hornchurch. Ah! New Alert card, double jump. David Linton, London SE9. We don't play with rabbits. Margaret Comford, Macclesfield. I've hidden the eggs. Call four spades. Kathleen Hayward, Sheffield. All cards on the table please. Mr P Heizer, Seaford. What? A bridge player without an opinion! Loma Matheson, Inverness. Do we Honour players have to play with a rabbit? Mr D J L Horsfall, Edinburgh. What is a club without a rabbit. Mr A W Moore, Glackmanshire. You can play dummy always. Lindsay Sutherland, Aberdeen. Will I do? Patricia Walton, Kenilworth. Don't risk it if your vulnerable. June McGibbon, Merseyside. Queen "But do you play like a rabbit?" Mrs R F Weston, Northumberland. Gentle Duplicate is perfect for rabbits. Mrs S Rowan, London W14. O do go on, I'm all ears! George Hudd, South Croydon. Welcome to our club! We love bunnies! Mrs S W Turner, Liverpool. King, Queen, Jack, Rabbit. Joan Hutcheon, Aberdeen. May I join your club? Mr & Mrs R Seddon, Altringham. Three clubs it is! Mrs C Watters, Skipton. A visually handicapped Rabbit is not fourth worthy. Raphael Grossman, Sheffield. Queen is favorite. Amanda Cheek, Radlett. Our club will always welcome a rabbit. Mr P M George, Milton Keynes. When you said a Royal Doulton Model. Laurence Manning, London N11. If your name is Brighteyes, why are you wearing spectacles? Mr M Mogano, Solihull. Thought only aces were bigger than us. Hilary Vaughan, Sutton Coldfield. Who's for rabbit bridge? Mrs V Dent, Dunstable. Can't forget she was a bunnygirl once. Col A B Byng, Ainess. Pass the buck again! I'll bid goodnight! Arthur Bosch, Cheadle. Wanted, a partner for a short sighted rabbit. Joan Charman, Marple, Stockport. May I be your partner. Margot Kingstead, Wembley, Middlesex. He's not late for this date I see! Pat Cattanach, Edinburgh. The Rueful Rabbit outwits mere court cards. Mrs I C Bukowska, St Andrews. Jack of hearts? Well, I'm Mr Bridge! Angela Payne, Oxford. Bunny Hell! Geoffrey Humm, Sheffield. So, you're in charge of EBU strategy?? Michael Scorer, Durham City. Ignore them, just cover me! Mr P Cordiner, Bellingham. Rabbits can often be 'ace' players. Derek Chapman, Eastbourne. The beginners course attracted some unusual players. Elaine Adds, Skellingthorpe. I'm the result of a "Jump Bid"! Mr E May, Worthing. Can I join the club? Mrs Helen Platt Higgins, Maidenhead. Aces are for "Rabbits". Mrs Betty Bennell, Cardiff. Bridge is too clever for me. Mrs J Rosen, Hove. My ace out ranks you three. Mrs B Stannard, Staines. Looking for the Queen of hearts I presume. Mr A Gordon, Surrey. Supper tonight, dear? Mrs E Hulme, Cheshire. Miss Potter sent me along to play. Mr & Mrs Bames, Harrogate. I do like a chap in glasses. Miss Lois Connell, Milneavie. Are you the ace of clubs? Mrs E Somers, Piling. Mrs Bunny's in the "club" again. Mr E H Terry, Shrewsbury. You can never be absolutely sure! Mr & Mrs Stephenson, Stoke on Trent. All look up to the rabbit. Mr Barry Hasell, Sutton Coldfield. Sorry to spoil your claim for honours. Mr B Clegg, Cheshire. That looks more like "bunny" than "dummy". Mrs M E Thompson, Lancs. My club is ace. Mr & Mrs P Weighon, Surrey. Shall I be your ace? Mr Albert Knott, Dorset. Never seen a rabbit look so confident! Mr H R Harlow, Herts. Did you really mean seven no thumps? Mrs Anne Ward, Hants. Can a rabbit join the club? Mrs J Lee, Northampton. Well, you do need four to play! Mrs Margaret Fisher, Solihull. I've got an ace up my sleeve. Mrs R J Boddy, Co Durham. Ok but no more jokes about double bunny. Mr B Farmer, West Sussex. Three Clubs. Why join another? Mr Geoffrey Bignell, East Sussex. April fool! Mrs A V Dron, Glasgow. Our Club welcomes Rabbits. Mr C Leighton, Chigwell. You opened seven no trump? Mr R A Lloyd, Boumemouth. Director, the lady revoked! Mrs M Little, Carlisle. Bernard Magee? No I'm Brer Rabbit. Mr R J Hulks, Hampshire. Is the Rabbit convention rather like

Weissburger? Mrs M V Fielding, Chester. The EBU (Easter Bunny Union) advised "Join a Club". Mrs P J Clark, York. Three Clubs with 6 points? No Bunny! Christine Linton, London. He'd make a nice Goulash. Mr Ken Payne, Herts. So back to serious bridge? Mrs C G Foord, Suffolk. Stand by for hairy bidding my friends. Mrs Alison Wraith, Devon. Actually, I'm the club ace. Mr Michael Tudor Craig, Hants. Hi "I'm the Ace of the clubs" Mrs Catherine Young, Kenfrew. Bunn's turn to bid. Mr J R Tijou, Bristol. Will you make up a four? Mr James Grieve, Glasgow. I'll show you a trick, your Honours. Mr Gordon West, Berkshire. I do believe you need one more. Beryl Almond, Liverpool. You are worth two clubs. Mr P Churchley, Hants. No more jump bids from you please. Mr Charles Rossetti, London. Are you the joker in the pack? Mrs Angela Rossetti, London. Me? My forte is the jump bid. Mrs D M Gauld, Wimbledon. Heard you were playing for big bucks. Mr P Dixon, Bucks. I'm a bit of a rabbit at this game. Mrs B Dick, Oxford. My two will make you jump. Mrs Joyce Bailey, Staffs. Please may I join your club? Mrs Margaret Williams, Boumemouth. Do you need a fourth player? Mrs D Campbell, Northants. You can only disappear when you are dummy. Mr James Saunders, West Sussex. Our director is sick. Meet our "substitute". Mrs D Baker, Bath. Here do you sit in the pack? Mrs Elizabeth Ottevell, Derbyshire. The buck stops here. I'm the director! Mr D Jones, West Sussex. You are just a few high cards. Miss Eileen Mullett, Norfolk. You've been at the mushrooms again. Mr Geoffrey C Warren, Cornwall. And now for my next bid. Mrs Hilary Shaw, Glasgow. Caption from rabbit "It happened when I opened seven clubs". Ralph Howe, Cheshire. Shall we cut for partners? Mrs Sylvia Chemick, Manchester. Meet Hare Ace (Heiress) of clubs. Mr Norman Emerson, Lincoln. Bunny test positive, queenie, were in clubs. Mr John Tomlinson, Blackpool. I see a Large Run ahead. Mrs Katie Quayle, Durham. Meet tonight's host. Mrs Mary Rutter, London. Hello folk, what's your problem? Mrs Annie M Ball, Cornwall. The king and I will thump you. Mr D G Rudd, Leatherhead. Anyone for bridge? Mrs E Tucker, Kent. Are you related to you know who? Mr F B Caine, Birmingham. Ears to a grand slam. Mr A G W Holloway, Gloucestershire. I came for duplicate not triplicate. Mrs E Downie, Cheshire. Please tell us how to peter. Mr D Chadwick, Wrexham. What club are you in? Mrs H J Gardiner, West Yorkshire. Was that a jump shift? Mr Ted O'Shea, Northern Ireland. I can see you are club members. Mrs Sheila Burke, Stockport. Not a Jack, Ass. An ace Rabbit. Mrs C E Gilbert, Surrey. Sorry! I've come to the wrong club. Ken Shemilt, Cheshire. Rabbits Bridge Club's short sighted Tournament Director. Sam Goldman, Leeds. Rabbit, Rabbit, Rabbit call the director. Mrs J Brown, Watford. I'm the big ace over you all. Mrs Dawn Wheeler, Herts. At the feet of the master. Mrs Valerie Brittan, Lincolnshire. Duplicate or Rubber in the burrow tonight? Mrs D E Thrift, Somerset. Rabbits double everything it's in their nature. Mr Frank Conlan, Merseyside. Rabbit pulling out Aces again? Mr David Elsmore, West Midlands. How about a foursome? Mrs A Best, Yorkshire. My name is bunny NOT dummy. Mrs P Sledger, Warwickshire. Hearts are Frumps. Mr Derek Shaw, Essex. May I be dummy all the time? Mrs M Jones, Herts. Too much "Rabbit". Not enough play. Miss Heather Watson, Belfast. I always keep an Ace in my pocket in case of emergencies. Mrs P G Smith, Cheshire. Love your suit. Mrs E L Hicks, Congleton. That's not a peter, Peter. Mr P Simonis, Middlesex. I was looking for Queen of Hearts. Mrs Kate Hartley Penylan, Cardiff. Please, Mrs Queen, may I play? Mrs E Watson, Castle Douglas. Don't partner me with the mad hatter. Mr W Hitchen, Torquay. I suppose 'Friendly Club Rabbits Welcome' was misleading. Mrs Prue Turpin, Whitby. Don't leap into trumps without more support. Zena Leamer, Ware. Who called the director? Mrs M Farren, Guynedd. Do you prefer an ace or a rabbit? Allan Wagman, Pinner. So where's the queen of hearts? Mrs Wendy Dollman, W.Mids. Obviously a spade, he digs holes. Mr A Fairall, Hinckley. Who ate the big clover leaf? Mr Andrew Suttie, Derbyshire. I'd rather not have a goulash. Mrs A Abbott, Rutland. Yes! I am the tournament director. Mrs J Groves, Herts. I pulled one out of the hat! Dr P Mounfield, Leics. It's an adaptation of Alice in Wonderland! Mrs P Reid, Shrewsbury. Our Jack needs tuition in boxing. Mrs Paddy Lupton, Southgate. Are you considering a jump bid? Mrs R Wright, Warwick. Wrong again Jack, you should have finessed! Mrs M T Dunn, Wigan. The winning trick leapt out of my hat! Mrs R. Noble, Tyne and Wear. Welcome to the bunny club. Mr G Cane, Middlesex. I want a triple club sandwich PLEASE. Mrs Mary Davies, London. (Queen to Rabbit) You overbid on your lettuce. Mrs L M Daniels, Essex. 3 Honours. I advise a psychic bid. Mrs Barbara Mitchell, Herts. You're late again! Mrs Morag Maddocks, Sheffield. Seven clubs made? What a rabbit punch! Mrs S H Reiersen, Whalley. Will you be my queen of hearts? Mrs M L Frank, Cumbria. Let's stick to the usual gift! Val Thompson, Dalkeith. It was her harts that did it! Mrs B. M Jones, Bucks. Would you like me over for dinner? Mrs J M Forbes, London. You are my king of hearts! Mr Frank Sims, Essex. I only make jump bids. Mr P W Palmer, Devon. My paws can't manage bidding boxes! Mr Ian Stoyle, Devon. I have just lost my heart. Mrs P Holder, London. Mr Director you always know best. Mrs M Davidson, Aboyne. Try a deep burrow, sorry fumesse Mr E W Bland, Somerset. Why can't I join your club? Mrs B Boggon, Eastlothian. Are you the ace of clubs? Mrs Sarah Butterworth, Reading. Does anyone play "Harecol"? Mrs R Stevens, Hants. Three no thumps. Mrs M H White, Risborough. Just a little club gathering. Mr R Lane, Boumemouth. Meet Jack. He's joining our clubs! Mrs Stephanie Shaw, Cambridge.



# JUBBLE CAPTION COMPETITION

**3NT today.** Mrs Diana Payne, Stratford. Darlings, the hare jump convention is ace! Mrs Jill Hughes, East Sussex. Contract made. Glad she went to Specsavers! Mr B Kavarana, Surrey. The buck passes, so I'll bid clubs. Mr G. A Dicker, Swansea. May I join the game? Mrs W Brelsford, Tewkesbury. What a stupid Bid! Mr G. C. Wright, Rotherham. It said, "Simultaneous Points" not "Stupendous Hares". Mr M. H. Wilkes, Worcester. At last I've found my Queen. Mrs D Newman, Worcs. Everyone! Welcome at the bridge club. Mrs M J Lawton, Southport. You've really turned up trumps (Queen). Mrs Pat McMahon, Kent. We minors can play ruff too, Big Ears. Mr Graham Hindle, Cambridge. Shall we cut for partners? Mr D Ballard, Hants. No, I'm the hare to the throne! Ian & Trudy Glen, Kent. What do you reply to three clubs? Mrs Rae Ingleby, Cheshire. You should have seen first prize. Sarah Wallis, Herts. **Three Clubs? You must be mad!** Miss K. H. McIntosh, Kent. We went one bridge game too far. Mrs Pamela Harding, Nantwich. Keep the spades out of my burrow. Mrs V Walton, Tyne & Wear. Three clubs? You must be joking! Mrs S McIntosh, Northampton. Rabbits don't play 3 No Trumps. Mrs Jennifer Fisher, Surrey. Was that a jump or a hop? Mrs S Workman, Wadhurst. Where's Alice? Mrs B. J Ray, Hants. Joining the club, mine hare? Mr David Axson, Buckinghamshire. Falling for her hare brained partner! Mrs E Hudson, Kent. A big welcome to the club. Mrs M Fletcher, Uxbridge. Let's say "Inexperienced"! Mr David Roberts, Grantham. Be Kind I'm a Bunny at bridge. Mr & Mrs K Rogers, Hartlepool. In which suit would you jump? Mrs Dorothy Dutton, Chester. Only a rabbit would have led the jack. Mr John Tanford, Brentwood. March hare? No I'm the ace of clubs! Mrs E A Roberts, Anglesey. Granny, what big ear's you've got. Mrs Pauline Wickes, Surrey. Laws, rules, etiquette, whatever no foot thumping! Mrs Shirley Marsden, Herts. Just one friendly face at this club? Mrs Shirley D Woods, Herts. Jump the Queen end up with five. Mrs J M Barker, Lincs. Can you play bridge? Mr David Sellars, Yorks. I don't like clubs. Mr L J Pertwee, Oxon. Who's got the ace? Mrs J M MacTaggart, Torquay. I'm no Dummy I'm a Bunny. Mrs Pauline Welsh, Kent. We don't play with jokers. Mrs Margaret Lewis, Darlington. **3NT Doubled.** Dr P. A Lee, Sussex. Please may I join the club? Mrs J Trotter, Cheshire. Look what those hormones did! Mrs E Gillett, Wallingford. The club rabbit? Hardly your ideal Partner? Mr David Shenkin, London. Easter is a Royal Occasion! Mrs Sylvia Waxman, Middlesex. Um...what's up doc? Mr Kenneth Taylor, Hertfordshire. It's a Jack Rabbit! Mr Mike Turner, Liverpool. Don't pass the buck! Mr D Wesson, West Midlands. Our 'strong club' does not accept rabbits! Mrs Blanche Stephenson, Essex. In such esteemed company I'm a rabbit. Prof L. J Rogers, Aberystwyth. I am not a rabbit at bridge! Mr B Hodges, Herts. That's taking a "jump" bid too far! Mrs Margaret Kelly, Cheshire. Can you help me in clubs, partner? Mrs Jane Kilvington, St Albans. Psst. my left hand opponent's a rabbit. Mrs G M Edmonds, Herts. He's a great partner but rabbits on! Mrs Joan England, Herts. Paws for bidding. Mr Roy Seymour, Herts. Are you the three club openers? Mrs Jean Yarwood, Knutsford. Four carrots is an invalid bid! Mrs Judi Mills, Northampton. Please join our club! Mrs V C Hall, Epworth. Your majesty, revoking is no laughing matter! Mrs Mary Varela, Sussex. I'm just a Rabbit at this game. Mr K A Palmer, Warrington. Can I play the dummy, please! Mr R F Bowler, Lancs. STOP, I'm going to jump. Mrs J Nicholson, Sussex. Do you play Benjamin? Mrs J Mathieson, Surrey. Honours in partner's suit "jump" to game. Mrs B A Hewitt, Tunbridge Wells. Yes, Bridge players are mad as march hares! Mrs P. M King, Oxford. Here's a fourth! Mrs P Tudyde, Herts. Now tell me what have you done with West? Mrs J Thomas, Cornwall. Chaps! This must be the dummy bunny! Mrs Theima Williamson, Middlesex. Didn't know dressing up was now required! Mrs Janette McLeod, Edinburgh. Three Clubs must be pre-emptive! Mrs Sheena Storey, Hampshire. I only swallowed one enlarging tablet, Honest. Mrs B Timms, Dorset. Who's going to partner the Rabbit? Mr C O Preece, London. High card forcing. Mr J B Walters, Bristol. Three clubs and an Easter Bunny. Mrs Mary Done, Wilts. Hare bridge mad, we presume? Mrs Juli Muttag, Glos. Make up a four not fur! Mr G C Harrison, Luton. Can bunnies make more clubs in game? Mrs Barbara Burrows, Suffolk. Oh good all have a fourth. Mrs A Contreras, Wilts. Can rabbits play? Mrs Anne Goldsworthy, Sussex. Crowns are useful on bad hair days. Mrs Yvonne Dickinson, Lancs. He revoked, off with his head. Mrs Murphy, Lytham. Does he thump the table to alert? Mr L Walsham, East Sussex. North South or East West? Kathleen Church, Swansea. Are 3 carrots a Pre-empt? Mr David W Horritt, Preston. Welcome to our newest member. Mrs Beth Banks, Cumbria. Rabbit : I always jump Bid. Mr M J Hatton, Surrey. One hare doubled and re-doubled. Mrs Laura Sankey, Hampshire. I wanted a "dummy", not a "bunny". Mrs Pauline Mayes, Suffolk. Looking for an ace? Here I am! Dr Andrew Parker, Reading. I'm one of the bunny clubs. Mr John McLaughlin, Surrey. I'm in the club as well. Mr R Hart, Sussex. Have you just trumped? Miss D G Waddingham, Lincs. Do you minors understand jump bidding? Mrs P. Attwood, Glos. I wish I could say "pass". Mrs B Dykes, Suffolk. Rueful Rabbit? Thumper the tiger more likely. Mr D A Fenn, Wiltshire. Do you play fake jump shifts? Mrs Ruby Green, Bristol. Thumper's trumped our Ace! Mrs Elsie Forrest, Glasgow. Are you clubable Mr Hare? Please join me! Dr Colin Morgans, Hants. We cannot start without the director! Mr David Mahoney, Vale of Glamorgan. He plays leaping jump bids.



Mrs C D Levick, Naim. "Hare" we go again 3 Clubs! Mr D Bennett, Devon. No Trumps please! Mrs Elaine Burt, Lincolnshire. I ate the tarts. Mr G Franklin, Notts. Where's ace, he's been trumped! Mrs Rosina Holzinger, Devon. Our "jack" is strong enough without you! Mrs Rita Lenney, Reading. Can I be your partner Easter Bunny? Mr G H Manley, Birkenhead. No rabbits at the bridge table! Mrs R M Armitage, Leicester. Queen "Surely your vulnerable playing in the black wood?" Mr C D Bayliffe, Yorkshire. He's good at jump bids. Mr Pete Dean, Liverpool. It was a peter, Peter an echo. Mr J. C. Cheers, Herts. With these glasses I see a plan! Mrs F Deane, Herts. Playboy club?! Is that licensed? Dr R P Cornish, Cambs. Carrots didn't work then? Mr Jim Mitchell, Swindon. Are you looking for our ace too? Mrs Audrey Wood, Isle of Man. Whose trumped you then? Mr Charles E Leveson, Cheshire. Mr. Black would like to play fourth. Mrs A C Milner, Surrey. Still teaching sequence? Mrs D Boyce, Bangor. I play jump overcalls. Mr Alastair M Love, Bath. Please discard the robes to join Bunny Club. Mrs Avril Thompson, Surrey. Sorry Alice will not join the club. Mr J Wilson, Sheffield. NOW listen up. Clubs are trumps. Mrs M Taylor, Stockport. Remember to paws for thought. Mrs Helen Campbell, Glasgow. Ready for a jump bid, partner? Mr Frank Holden, Devon. Where have you hidden your two clubs? Mrs Eitel Weeks, Sussex. Your card table was near the hat! Mrs Iuy Salvage, London. There is no magic in bridge. Ursula Rosenfeld, Manchester. No! We are not a bunny club. Mr C Pearson, Leeds. Guess you don't eat carrots. Mr George Parker, Tickton. The bifocals help when playing doubled contracts. Mr G Thompson, Newcastle upon Tyne. You think we should let him join? Mrs M Cartwright Taylor, Cheshire. Does six NTs get you hopping? Mrs Hazel Tunncliffe, Cheshire. If only Lewis Carroll played Bridge. Mr A Thompson, Alsager. I know you said PARTNER was a rabbit! Miss Jean Crossfield, Lancs. Cards flatter to deceive. Mrs Ruth Evans, Cornwall. He's one of the Bridge club rabbits. Mr Allan Ridgeley, Oxon. I see a jump bid! Mrs Heather Rowe, Cornwall. And for your next trick? Mrs S M Byfield, Uxbridge. Here I am to make the four. Mr Eric Corser, North Wales. He's definitely with a different club. Mr Colin Thomas, Gwent. But Mr Director, I didn't say anything. Mrs A C Bosworth, Somerset. Stop Rabbiting, let EBU hare it's views. Mrs C Bagshaw, Notts. Spectacles needed to join the bunny club. Mr E E Wilkinson, Gtreta. Do you do weak or strong jumps? Mrs Susan Taylor, Surrey. Hearts are very overated these days. Mrs E Newcomb, Lancashire. Don't think my new partner's a rabbit! Mr & Mrs J H Markham, Cardiff. "And none of your harebrained double jumps". R G Pringle FR C S, Shropshire. The royal bunny club. Mr Brian Pinner, London. Join our club as ace with pace. Mr & Mrs Malcolm J Chambers, Warwicks. Jack's high. Mr J Goodfellow, Edinburgh. Is Easter bunny a type of signal? Mrs Helen Curtis, Herts. So! Your Mr Bridge! Canon C T Catton, Suffolk. Good try mum, but no thanks! Mr Howard Baker, East Sussex. Hare raising tuition. Mr John Coomber, Berks. Clubbing again? Mr H C Jones, Norfolk. Any chance of joining your club? Mr C Fordyce, West Sussex. We travel club class. Mr B N Zabell, Bournemouth. Opening two clubs, you are in clover. Mrs Joyce M Mitton, West Sussex. Not Benjamin Acol, Benjamin bunny. Mrs Pauline Bell, Cheshire. You must be a jack rabbit. Mr Peter Aitken, Fife. Three clubs and a great dummy! Mrs Jill Clarke, Herts. Don't look surprised if my partner jumps. Mrs Joyce Heaven, West Sussex. We've come to enter for the championship pairs! Mrs Helga Greenholtz, Middlesex. Sorry, we just play in pairs. Mr & Mrs Travis, Cumbria. You can't jump bid with six points. Mr J Procter, Cheshire. (King to Jack) Out with your club. It's rabbit pie for dinner. Mr S E Kent, Warrington. Would you like to join our club? Mrs Georgina Sprahger, Glos. 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Mrs C D Levick, Naim. "Hare" we go again 3 Clubs! Mr D Bennett, Devon. No Trumps please! Mrs Elaine Burt, Lincolnshire. I ate the tarts. Mr G Franklin, Notts. Where's ace, he's been trumped! Mrs Rosina Holzinger, Devon. Our "jack" is strong enough without you! Mrs Rita Lenney, Reading. Can I be your partner Easter Bunny? Mr G H Manley, Birkenhead. No rabbits at the bridge table! Mrs R M Armitage, Leicester. Queen "Surely your vulnerable playing in the black wood?" Mr C D Bayliffe, Yorkshire. He's good at jump bids. Mr Pete Dean, Liverpool. It was a peter, Peter an echo. Mr J. C. Cheers, Herts. With these glasses I see a plan! Mrs F Deane, Herts. Playboy club?! Is that licensed? Dr R P Cornish, Cambs. Carrots didn't work then? Mr Jim Mitchell, Swindon. Are you looking for our ace too? Mrs Audrey Wood, Isle of Man. Whose trumped you then? Mr Charles E Leveson, Cheshire. Mr. Black would like to play fourth. Mrs A C Milner, Surrey. Still teaching sequence? Mrs D Boyce, Bangor. I play jump overcalls. Mr Alastair M Love, Bath. Please discard the robes to join Bunny Club. Mrs Avril Thompson, Surrey. Sorry Alice will not join the club. Mr J Wilson, Sheffield. NOW listen up. Clubs are trumps. Mrs M Taylor, Stockport. Remember to paws for thought. Mrs Helen Campbell, Glasgow. Ready for a jump bid, partner? Mr Frank Holden, Devon. Where have you hidden your two clubs? Mrs Eitel Weeks, Sussex. Your card table was near the hat! Mrs Iuy Salvage, London. There is no magic in bridge. Ursula Rosenfeld, Manchester. No! We are not a bunny club. Mr C Pearson, Leeds. Guess you don't eat carrots. Mr George Parker, Tickton. The bifocals help when playing doubled contracts. Mr G Thompson, Newcastle upon Tyne. You think we should let him join? Mrs M Cartwright Taylor, Cheshire. Does six NTs get you hopping? Mrs Hazel Tunncliffe, Cheshire. If only Lewis Carroll played Bridge. Mr A Thompson, Alsager. I know you said PARTNER was a rabbit! Miss Jean Crossfield, Lancs. 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## Mr Bridge

# AT THE OLDE BARN

Toll Bar Road, Marston, Lincolnshire, NG32 2HT

- ◆ Full-board Friday to Sunday
- ◆ All rooms with en-suite facilities
- ◆ No single supplement
- ◆ Venue non-smoking
- ◆ Use of swimming pool and fitness suite
- ◆ Bidding quiz & two seminars (on duplicate weekends only)

### BOOKING FORM

Please book me for ..... places,

Single ..... Double ..... Twin .....

for the Olde Barn weekend(s) of .....

Mr/Mrs/Miss .....

Address.....

Postcode ..... ☎ .....

Special requirements (these cannot be guaranteed, but we will do our best to oblige)

Please give the name(s) of all those covered by this booking

Please send a non-returnable deposit of £50 per person per place by cheque, payable to Mr Bridge. An invoice will be sent with your booking confirmation. On receipt of your final payment, 28 days before the event, a programme and full details will be sent together with a map. Cancellations are not refundable. Should you require insurance, you should contact your own insurance broker.

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Expiry: ..... CVV ..... Issue No. ....  
(CVV is the last 3 numbers on the signature strip)

**Mr Bridge**, Ryden Grange, Knaphill, Surrey GU21 2TH

☎ 01483 489961 Fax 01483 797302

e-mail: [leanora@mrbridge.co.uk](mailto:leanora@mrbridge.co.uk)

website: [www.holidaybridge.com](http://www.holidaybridge.com)

## PROGRAMME

This is the format for all duplicate weekends and rarely varies.

### FRIDAY

1500 **Mr Bridge**  
Welcome Desk open  
Afternoon Tea

1745 to 1830  
Welcome drinks  
reception

1830 to 2000  
DINNER

2015 **BRIDGE**  
**SESSION 1**  
DUPLICATE PAIRS

### SATURDAY

0800 to 0930  
BREAKFAST

1000 to 1230  
SEMINAR &  
SUPERVISED PLAY  
of SET HANDS 1  
(tea & coffee at 1100)

1230 to 1330  
COLD BUFFET  
LUNCH

1400 to 1645  
**BRIDGE**  
**SESSION 2**  
TEAMS of FOUR

1815 to 2000  
DINNER

2015 **BRIDGE**  
**SESSION 3**  
DUPLICATE PAIRS

### SUNDAY

0800 to 0930  
BREAKFAST

1000 to 1230  
SEMINAR &  
SUPERVISED PLAY  
of SET HANDS 2  
(tea & coffee at 1100)

1230 to 1400  
CARVERY LUNCH

1400 to 1645  
**BRIDGE**  
**SESSION 4**  
DUPLICATE PAIRS

## Mr Bridge AT THE OLDE BARN



## 2008

**24-26 Oct (£199)**

Further into  
the Auction  
Ray Hutchinson

**7-9 Nov (£199)**

Improvers\*  
Take-out Doubles  
Ray Hutchinson

**28-30 Nov (£199)**

Signals & Discards  
Ray Hutchinson

## No Single Supplement

Room upgrades and  
special B&B rates  
for Sunday nights  
are available.

\*Improvers' Weekends are aimed at the novice player and/or those picking up the game after a long break.

# READERS' LETTERS



## FROM A TURKEY

Barry Capal's letter (April issue) suggests that he misunderstood my letter (Feb issue) when I stated – 'at least somebody is standing up for the turkeys – sorry, rank and file and allowing them to be heard'.

For the affiliated clubs, the Pay to Play (P2P) scheme has a Christmas and turkeys feel to it. It is not lack of bridge ability that defines 'turkey status', it is having no voice. The 60,000 plus affiliated players have no voice while Barry, as general manager of the EBU, does have a voice, as do all EBU members although most don't use it. Regrettably, the EBU hierarchy don't seem to want to hear from any of their members who (like me) dare to criticise the P2P idea.

In my opinion Ned Paul's article (Feb issue) was both informative and unbiased. Presumably he arrived at his 40p per player P2P fee by adding 10p for masterpoints to the EBU's original 30p per player estimate.

It seems fairer that people like me, who are interested in masterpoints and England's results in championships, should pay more than those who have no interest in either.

I, for one, would not object to an increase in my yearly subscription – surely this would be fairer than charging the disinterested affiliated players.

**Bob Rowlands, London W14.**

## ONE DOWN HOW MANY TO GO?

At my urging, in a Special General Meeting, Whitley Bridge Club voted to oppose the EBU P2P proposals and to disaffiliate if P2P is implemented in its current form – or something similar.

I believe that the EBU has thought the whole thing through. They are not concerned about small club opposition, nor are they interested in threats of disaffiliation. They believe that disaffiliated clubs will come crawling back in subsequent years. This has happened in Poland and Holland already.

However, in the subsequent years, disaffiliated clubs could form their own fun-loving, sprightly, (and more democratic), governing body. We could organise our own league matches at minimal expense! I believe that it is in the small, social clubs that the membership is vibrant and growing. We could just line up and watch Big-Club-Expensive-EBU wither and die. Nobody wants this, but they started it!

**Neil Riley, Northwich, Cheshire.**

## BUBBLE STORY

This story (right) evolved from your February caption competition. There are far too many words for an entry, but I thought you might enjoy it. Of course, none of the characters are real.

**Caroline Moseley, Ilkley.**

## APRIL FOOL?

On page 5 you state '2010 diaries production now in hand' Is this hand a pre-emptive bid? Or are the 2009 diaries already produced.

**Mr R Hill, Fleet, Hampshire.**  
[2009 diaries will be available from August.](#)

## CONTRACT BRIDGE

I had to smile when I read the end of Mr C H Pope's letter on page 46 in April's BRIDGE. Despite what

Mr Pope says, I will always regard playing bridge as a contracting activity.

**David Betts, Hitchin, Herts.**

## CRIB WANTED

Can you provide suggestions for an aide-memoire to help me with further bidding, re-bids and the like. I think beginners like me would find this particularly useful.

**Mrs J Chaplin, Eastbourne.**

[I will provide a cut-out half page in the next issue.](#) ▶

## NO BID

There were four prefects in the class of '58 at Gipperstoft: Kay, Jennifer, Naomi and me. Kay read the cards. She claimed her Gran was a gypsy. At lunchtimes, she, Jennifer and I would dash up to the broom cupboard labelled 'Prefects' Room' and deal. Spades meant power, hearts, love, diamonds, money and clubs, work. In Kay's Gran's system, Death was the ace of spades. The Queen was 'a powerful woman'. If they showed together, we loved envisaging something nasty ahead for our icy tutor, Mrs Rolaston.

Naomi always went to the library. Good marks were her thing. The only time she joined us was on the day Jennifer had come top in Physics. Kay dealt and Naomi turned up the ♣9 (travel), ♦9 then the ♠10 (deep disappointment), then

the ♥9, which emphasises a following ace, and there it was – the ♠A. Jennifer announced, 'Rummy today'. Naomi didn't understand, but starting with three nines, she won easily.

Next day, Mrs Rolaston confiscated our cards, threatening us with demotion. Naomi's Mum had rung. Naomi, Gipperstoft's Oxbridge hope, was going to boarding school. So, travel and deep disappointment. Death? Well, there was Mrs Rolaston – cardiac arrest, we heard.

Yesterday at bridge, I picked up Naomi's sequence. It distracted me and in response to 2NT, I made an ill-considered 'no bid', missing a slam. My partner was deeply disappointed.

As I write, dawn is breaking. I must leave early for the half-century reunion at Gipperstoft.

### BRIDGE FOR IDIOTS – YOU REPLY

I feel I must respond to the letter written by Mr Harkavy in Bridge 88, which enraged me to the point of detonation.

Yes, Mr Harkavy, there is no probably about it... you are churlish. Personally I would not have also used the word 'curmudgeonly' as it has virtually the same interpretation. On second thoughts, however, in using a similie, you have actually endorsed your own opinion of yourself. Perhaps 'arrogant' might be an adjective you should consider in any future self analysis.

As an intermediate bridge player, I can well remember my days as a beginner when there was much to learn, absorb and make sense of. Ruffing in the short hand and other tricks of the trade did not rise to the surface of consciousness automatically and, far from having my intelligence insulted, I was gratified to receive apt instruction, as I still am.

The article you found so objectionable was clear and informative and, having regard to my previous comments, would prove a boon to any budding bridge player. No wonder some do not last the course if they are unfortunate enough to find themselves in company such as yours, Mr Harkavy.

Intolerance of this nature drives people away from a wonderful game from which they may very well have benefited for a wide variety of reasons and, given some time, together with amiable instruction, proved an asset to the game.

The extravagance involved was to waste space in printing your most offensive letter.

**Mr J Marshall, Clacton on Sea.**

I always enjoy reading your letters pages in BRIDGE but do not always agree with some of them. Take, for instance, Anthony Harkavy's letter which appeared in the April edition.

Firstly, I consider Bernard Magee's page on ruffing in the short hand to be an excellent article. I am a competitive bridge player and have been playing for more years than I can remember. In no way do I feel that my intelligence has been insulted.

Secondly, judging by some of the letters published in BRIDGE, there are many readers who have had little experience. Articles such as that written by Bernard are easy to read and understand and will bring more enjoyment to the game.

Keep up the good work Bernard and lets have more articles along similar lines.  
**Brian Berlanny, Portsmouth.**

I think that the email received by you from Mr Anthony Harkavy, published in BRIDGE 88, is very unreasonable. Surely the magazine is for all levels of ability and knowledge, including those who are beginners. Even Mr Harkavy must once have been unaware of the reason for ruffing in the short hand.

**Pam Southworth, Winchester.**

I think Bernard Magee was unfairly criticised for his article, 'Ruff in the short hand'. Of course, the article was of no interest to experienced players but as a bridge teacher myself I thought his article was a model of clarity.

**Bob Rowlands, London W14. ▶**

## SHORTIES

What a coincidence, your surname being Bridge.  
**Paul Newton, Whitley Bay.**

My wife is partly disabled. Could you please advise in your hotel advertisements as to their suitability for wheelchairs.

**Mr Silverman, Stanmore.**

I wonder if you could tell me more about the bridge software it is possible to buy through Mr Bridge. I already own *Declarer Play*. Are there others for improvers? **Mrs J Reeves, Bedale, Yorks.**  
[See adverts in this issue.](#)

The quiz answer – page 6; no mention has been made of Benji-Acol. We would bid 2♦ showing either 23+ points or a three-loser hand – relay 2♥ – then 2♠ etc.  
**Mr & Mrs Hellier, Pembury.**  
[The quiz was set for Acol.](#)

We are always looking for extra places at which to play social bridge and so look forward to the publication of the proposed Club Directory.  
**Mrs L Lewis, Milton-under-Wychwood, Oxon.**

[Have you sent in your own club's entry?](#)

My bridge has remained purely social and will continue like that – so I accept that you will delete me from your list.

**Name and address supplied.**  
[I am happy to continue to post BRIDGE to you.](#)

I require help to understand and score, including the system to establish percentage scores for my friendly duplicate club members. **Ian Shaw, Malvern Wells, Worcs.**  
[The centrefold should help.](#)

As much as I enjoy the Bridge magazine – I do not need two copies. **Mrs Sarah Maunder, Tiverton, Devon.**  
[Thanks for letting me know.](#)

Where are your bridge supplies? **Mrs R McIlwraith, Ingateston, Essex.**

[See my website bridge shop. www.mrbridge.co.uk](#)

Please reinstate your full mail order service.

**Mrs Joy Riley, Norwich.**  
[No. It is unable to cover its marketing costs.](#)

Has the updated yellow book come out yet?  
**Mrs I Westwood, Wootton Bridge, I.O.W.**  
[August this year.](#)

Amazing that such a simple card game can give rise to so many rules, conventions and protocols.

**Mr E Langridge, Warrington.**

Could we please have more fun movements for clubs.

**Mrs P Evans, Matlock.**  
[Ideas from readers please.](#)

Bridge Etiquette – When you go to a table and say 'hello', the other pair should stop their discussions about a previous hand. **Ivy Sharpe, London E.C.4.**  
[Quite so.](#)

I once possessed a copy of some jingly verse, about the well-known connection of the Earl of Yarborough with our game. Does any reader know of it? **Mr J A Barrett, Ipswich, Suffolk.**

I found BRIDGE 88 particularly informative and interesting dealing with rules. Are there any that apply to counting.  
**Mrs Kathleen Woolford, Bromley, Kent.**

Thank you for sponsoring the Bishops Waltham event with Bernard Magee. It was a lovely day out. **Mrs Judy Adam, Tonbridge.**  
[Raising £6,800.](#)

I think more emphasis could be put on differences between pairs and teams.  
**Norman Osborn, Bromley.**

## READERS' LETTERS *continued*

### REPRINT

Janet Miller, 'Grand Slam', might be interested in my letter printed in BRIDGE 48 *Established Record*. Maybe your current readers would like to know about this, too!

"In response to the letter 'Is This a Record?' in BRIDGE 46, I hasten to tell you that in August 1971, whilst playing a friendly game of rubber bridge, I was dealt 36 high-card points (small slam in no-trumps, bid and made) and in the following hand I picked up 37 HCP – all the aces, kings, queens and the jack of hearts (grand slam bid and made in no-trumps).

My husband wrote to *The Daily Telegraph* Bridge Correspondent at that time, Mr G. C. H. Fox, who recounted my experience in his bridge column on several occasions, also including the calculations on the odds against such a phenomenon, that had been produced by some of his readers."

**Mary Barnard, Southsea.**

### MAKE YOUR LABEL

My view is that the EBU went wrong in allowing us to choose our own names for the groupings in which we place ourselves.

Basically there are two groups. (a) The bridge players who want bridge as a sport played round the world, anxious to have a national body to govern and organise it in this country and willing to share in the payment for it to do so and (b) the moaners.

I shall resolutely remain a bridge player though I do admit to having a moan now and then ... lunch hour at work and occasionally with the grandchildren. In fact, when I was in hospital for six

weeks, three bridge players often visited and we moaned for hours. It wasn't playing bridge because the visitors let me win, they said.

How do you describe yourself, Mr Bridge?

With these definitions, the EBU could come up front and say that they will be there for all bridge players and the moaners can organise themselves. With a bit of luck, they might find soft-hearted bridge players to help them out. The only money issue is that enough is raised to do the job. The existing structure ensures this and should be robust enough to grow to make the EBU serve all who pay for its operation.

The element of forced choice is that individuals be dragged to the brink of this awful truth and asked to jump one way or the other.  
**Peter J Tyers, Leicester.**  
*Definitely a moaner.*

### MEMBERS WANTED

I am the secretary of a small bridge club which meets in the Stoke Bishop (Bristol) village hall every Tuesday evening. We are an extremely sociable club (we do not need a director), playing rubber and Chicago, and would welcome new members. Any prospective member can contact me on ☎ 0117 9685640

**C J Treharne, Stoke Bishop.**

### BRITS FOR BRIDGE

Like many retired folk, my wife and I spend a few weeks in Spain each winter. There are many bridge clubs out there run by Brits for Brits, but they are often small and hard to find. I wonder if there is any way of bringing them into your orbit.

**Mr R Ekins, Nottingham.** ▶

## SHORTIES *continued*

I holiday in winter and don't like cruises. What can you do for winter sun?

**Mrs Patricia Haynes, Wirral.**  
*How about Tunisia?*

I applaud your approach to bridge in the 21st century. It needs a new lead and a successor to an outdated EBU. Wish I could join your world but I'm 90. **Mr K D Perry, Street, Somerset.**

Do you know of any single player wanting to play social bridge near Kingsand, Plymouth – we need one more player. **Mrs Margaret Connolly, ☎ 01752 829104.**

I was interested to read in BRIDGE 88 that Precision is to be discussed in BRIDGE in 2009. I have always played Precision and was beginning to wonder if it was an outdated method. **Mrs June Keir, Alford, Aberdeenshire.**

When printing questionnaires could they be printed without the loss of the article on the back?

**Mrs H M England, Solihull.**  
*They are usually printed with adverts on the reverse.*

Navigation of your excellent magazine would be easier if all pages were numbered.

**Mrs M Mathews, Godstone.**  
*Cut-outable pages are always unnumbered.*

I was pleased to find an outlet for my used stamps. I've sent them to Mr C. Bamberger who put a request in BRIDGE 88.

**Mrs M A Stoneman, Buckhurst Hill, Essex.**

By the way, it's Baron Münchhausen, not Muncchhausen. **Mr James Seddon, Kenilworth.**

Would it be possible for you to organise a combined holiday of bridge and golf?  
**Mrs Marion Stafford, Wirral.**  
*Try Staverton Park.*

A review of bridge computer systems would be very useful. Both of CD's and hand-held systems.

**Mr Gordon Dugmore, Donisthorpe, Derbys.**  
*Your suggestion is a good idea. QPlus 8.8 and Bernard Magee's unique tutorials are excellent.*

Please do not overload with information of the EBU. How about some SBU information.  
**Mrs N Mcfarlane, Clacks.**

As a resident in Scotland; I think the ongoing EBU saga is fascinating. Better than any soap! **Mr W Dew, Gifford, East Lothian.**

Let's hope someone sees sense soon about the EBU P2P scheme. **Mr Ian Willmott, Dronfield, Derbys.**

I can't tell you how much I am enjoying Bernard Magee's *Declarer Play* – absolutely superb. Great value for money. **Mrs Irene Button, Poole, Dorset.**

Have you ever thought of running a singles weekend, where people who are single can meet other bridge-playing single people. **Mrs S A Green, Wolverhampton.**

Publishing Bridge Etiquette is a very good idea. Perhaps one should add that one should not touch other people's cards. **Mr Donald Dewar, Cricklade, Wilts.**

How will you know I am keeping in touch now I can't order from Mr Bridge?  
**Mrs Maurine Kilpatrick, Kilmacolm, Inverclyde.**  
*By completing the form facing page 6.*

Do you have weekends for players without partners?  
**Mr Stan Holt, Biggin Hill.**  
*All and every one of our weekends cater for those who come on their own.*

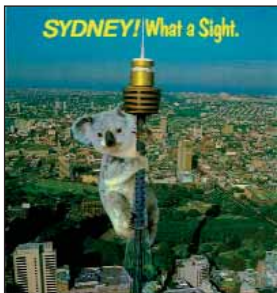
## READERS' LETTERS *continued*

### QUESTIONNAIRES

My first thought on reading your comments on Bridge Etiquette (BRIDGE April 2008) was that perhaps there should also be a code of practice or etiquette for the people who organise bridge holidays. This should include responding to the adverse or bad comments made in the questionnaires.

*If the writer would provide their name and address, I will do my best to put whatever was wrong, right.*

### AROUND THE WORLD



This is a belated 'Thank You' for your latest edition of your magazine which has given us hours of pleasure.

**Mrs D Robertson,**  
New South Wales, Australia.

### COMPUTER GENERATION

I write to respond to Mr D D Tattersalls letter 'Generation Gap' April 2008, because I find his remarks somewhat disparaging to older players of which he claims to be one and then goes on to refer to them as 'they'.

I have been a member of my club for 20 years. There are members who go further back. We have a committee who work hard for the club. The age range of members is from 40 years and we rarely have anyone under 40 playing. I, too, have played at a couple of neighbouring clubs (not the Manchester

Bridge Club – wow – that would be impressive) and their age ranges are similar to those at my club.

Our committee decided, whether we wanted it or not, to introduce IT in the hope of bringing in younger players. To date, we have Bridgemates, computer-generated certificates, with a few free entrance tickets attached, which are presented monthly to the three pairs who scored best. These certificates have generated such table talk as 'Stupid' and 'Waste of Money'. They will hardly be framed and hung on the parlour wall. Soon we'll have computer-generated deals. So far, we haven't had a rush of youngsters climbing over our zimmer frames to join.

Mr Tattersall and other committees should realise that the IT element that he hopes will bring in the younger generation, is in fact the medium which has diverted them from bridge, whist and scrabble. They should watch, as I have, up to twenty sixth-formers with several computers, playing for hours in what they call a Pro Tournament with a game 'Pro Evolution'. Then they would see what they are up against. The kids even have a dress code 'smart casual'.

I do think that all clubs who have a good proportion of older players should appreciate the loyalty they give to their clubs, as demonstrated by their regular attendance.

**Mrs L Webster, Cheshire.**

### VERSATILE BARON

Baron Münchhausen also appears in *Chess Magazine*. He is very versatile!

**Mr M Reddie, Eastbourne.** ►

## SHORTIES *continued*

I would welcome an article on cue-bidding. **Mrs Diane Horne, Bromsgrove, Worcs.**

At last I understand the rule of 20! Thank you.

**Mrs Jennifer Finegold, NW3.**

Currently running QPlus 7.8. It becomes a superb teaching method by inputting deals taken from newspapers, *Bridge Plus* and this magazine. **Mr M J Twohill, Melton Mowbray.**

My husband and I vie with one another over the quizzes. They keep our brains active. **Mrs M James, Cobham, Surrey.**

I notice you do not seem to have Bridge weekends based in the North East of England. **Miss J Coward, North Shields.**

No more stories, please, just bridge. **Mrs M Gould, Buxton, Derbyshire.**

Disappointed that you no longer promote the shop nor appear to accept advertisements. Perhaps these advertisements could be activated on-line in your own website shop. **Mr Alan Harris, Benfleet, Essex.**

*They are.*

*The Daily Bridge Calendar.* I concur with recent letters and comments. The *Andrew Robson Calendar* I got from you this year is not uninteresting but nowhere near as enjoyable as the previous North American product. **Mr P Cowen, Louth.**  
*Sadly no longer published.*

Please include articles aimed at real beginners. **Mrs J M Wadsworth, Cheadle.**  
*I do try but real beginners don't remain real beginners for very long, do they?*

Any possibility of listing local authority evening classes. **Miss Kelly, Bishop Auckland.**

Would it be possible to have holiday bridge for singles? **Mrs Maureen Dunkley, Chesterfield.**

*Some bridge singles-only weekends will feature in the 2009 programme.*

You are quite right to limit the number of words in the caption, but ten words would be better than seven. Also, you should make it only one caption per person.

**Mr George Pilcher, Kent.**  
*Seven words only and one entry next time.*

Any tips on how to wear rubber bridge players over to duplicate? **Mrs Jean Durbin, Edinburgh.**

*Try one of my Gentle Duplicate weekend events.*

I do feel bridge needs less rules, not more! **Miss Tricia Baldwin, Wembley, Middx.**

Where do you publish the winners to your bubble competitions? **Mrs Ann Richardson, Ipswich.**  
*Pages 34 & 35 this issue.*

I thoroughly enjoy your magazine, but could rubber bridge be mentioned more? **Mrs E Blackburn, Pinner.**

I thought far too much space was taken with readers' letters which I found very uninteresting. **Miss Hilary Sanderson, Leeds.**

Enjoy the magazine, some good articles but too many readers letters – 8 pages! **Mrs Jane Salt, London SW.**

Occasionally one of a regular four does not turn up. What is the best option for three-handed bridge please?

**Dr E V McHattie, Prestbury.**

For our AGM, I downloaded "Etiquette" from your website library. The people for whom it was intended just read it, and carried on as before.

**Name & Address supplied.**

## READERS' LETTERS *continued*

### SAME ENVELOPE

I have been receiving this magazine for years and for the first time, the April issue came in a plastic wrapper just as use of plastic bags is being strongly discouraged. The magazine is great – this change isn't.

**Mrs M Platt, Leeds.**  
No change since 1994.

### RUBBER BRIDGE IN WORTHING

I belong to a local Rubber / Chicago club in Worthing and it does seem as if rubber bridge players are rather looked down on. I live within yards of the Beach Hotel and it would be nice to have a social / rubber bridge weekend there.

**Mrs Pam Rawlings, Worthing.**  
There are two this year.

### QUIZZES

I should love books of quizzes (perhaps a collection of past ones by Bernard Magee) to be made available ... also, four-night breaks at the Beach Hotel, Worthing or at Marsham Court, Bournemouth.

**Mrs H Pryor, West Sussex.**

### PEEL BRIDGE CLUB

We cannot trace the member of our club who is responsible for writing Bridge Etiquette, published in BRIDGE 87 and 88. However, the secretary totally agrees with the sentiments in the article.

**Dr Slatcher, Isle of Man.**

### NATIONAL TEAM

I presume that EBU (1) Congresses (2) Masterpoints (3) its magazine, all pay their way. When people say 'the EBU will collapse unless the new scheme is brought in' do they mean that it will no longer be able to finance the English National Team?

**Mr D Crofts, Edgbaston.**

### LIVING IN HOPE

By EBU adopting pay to play they will reach a much wider membership and will need to devote more resources to the grass roots membership such as their teaching program and 'No Fear' competitions. It is a step by the EBU to be welcomed.

**Mr Robert Plumley, Guernsey.**  
But will they?

### GLOSSARY WANTED

As a new bridge convert I have learned some of the basics, but I would like to see a glossary of bridge terms (bridgespeak) and a simple explanation of such ploys as transfers, cue-bids, negative doubles, etc.

**Mr R Lyman, Huntingdon.**

### BRIDGE, NOT FOOD

I am teaching bridge to four farmer's wives and one widow and it has taken them out of their dreary feeding-men environment.

I so enjoy your magazine and I believe that each would appreciate their own copy.

**Mrs C Green, Doncaster.** ■

## SHORTIES *continued*

More from Dick Atkinson and the Baron please. **Mr Graham Anderson, Cosby.**  
Reprints now started.

Could we have some more conventions and what they mean. **Mrs J I Taylor, West Wickham, Kent.**

Your magazine makes me feel part of a nationwide bridge community. **Denise Grant, Ombersley.**

I am one of the idiots who appreciated Bernard Magee's article on ruffing in the short hand. **Mrs M S Dryburgh, Calne.**

I have not been on one of your bridge holidays but have you considered venues further north?

**Mrs J Rogers, Wilmslow.**  
Try Wychwood Park.

Any chance of re-registering via e-mail? **Mrs Gillian Quince, Hayes.**  
Yes, but I prefer snail-mail.

What about a simple guide for beginner directors? **Dr Alan White, Surbiton.**  
Duplicate Bridge Direction Simplified is in the course of preparation.

I enjoy the bridge articles and letters. Even the adverts are pleasing. **Mr K J Rowe, Wokingham, Berks.**

I am 82 years old and my two remaining pleasures are bridge (three times a week) and my computer. The operating system I use is RISE as per the BBC in the 80's. **Stanley Buchan, Glasgow.**  
Splash out, buy a cheap PC and a copy of QPlus. You won't regret it. Your computer is out of date.

When will Bernard's software be available on defence? **Mr J W Bussell, Dorset.**  
He will start work on it after Advanced Declarer Play is completed.

Are the the rules on alerting finalised? **Dr D J Carter, Droitwich, Worcs.**  
The revised laws are in force from August.

Please explain why you are collecting club details. **Mr Frans Vas Nunes, Brentwood, Essex.**  
To compile a directory to enable visitors to find bridge, likewise for those moving home.

Were the bubble caption entries last time so poor that you could not publish them? **Mr Roland Gough, Essex.**  
Just not enough room.

Thank you for an excellent free, extremely informative, down-loadable library! **Mrs Wendy Jordan, Sutton.**  
[www.mrbridge.co.uk/library](http://www.mrbridge.co.uk/library)

As I play mainly social, Chicago bridge, please could you write more about this. **Mrs S Lawrence, Herts.**  
I do my best to cater for all readers.

BRIDGE is almost as good as a game of bridge. **Mrs B C Monk, Cambridge.**  
Steady on.

Please could you do one article per issue on different systems eg. Sputnik doubles, 5-card Stayman, cue-bids. **Mrs Frainy Ardeshire, Barnet, Herts.**

Are there any clubs in Ashtead, Surrey for beginners / intermediates? **Mrs S A Simms, Bangor.**  
Ring ☎ 0289 47356383.

I would like to read about the magazine's contributors. **Mrs G V Bird, Totnes.**  
I'll see what I can do.

Please do not divulge my details to any third party. **Mr F J Howard, Bromsgrove.**  
All the names and addresses on my database are fully protected.

**Write to Mr Bridge at:  
Ryden Grange, Knaphill, Surrey GU21 2TH  
or e-mail [letters@mrbridge.co.uk](mailto:letters@mrbridge.co.uk).**

E-mail correspondents are asked to include their name, full postal address and telephone number, and to send no attachments.

Letters may be edited for length and clarity.



# ANSWERS TO THE DEFENCE QUIZ ON PAGE 27 by JULIAN POTTAGE

1.

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

	♠ J 8 5 ♥ A J 10 6 3 2 ♦ 4 2 ♣ A J		
--	---	--	--

West	North	East	South
Pass	2♦	Pass	1♥
Pass	4♥	End	2♥

You lead the seven of spades, which the king wins as partner plays the ten and South the five. Dummy now leads the queen of hearts, which runs to your king. What do you do next?

If you look just at your own cards, it is hard to tell what to do. Thankfully, bridge is a game of partnership. Do you remember what card your partner played on the first trick? It was the ten of spades. Since this was not an attempt to win the trick or to force out a high card from declarer, it must be a signal. It is usual to play that a high card says 'I like the suit, please continue.' This is an attitude signal.

Although you can see the top spade in dummy, you should obey the signal and play a second round of spades. You expect partner to have the queen of spades and, as South made a minimum rebid, some other high cards as well. Here you will beat the contract with a spade, a heart and two diamonds.

2.

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

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

South plays in 4♥ after the same auction as on deal 1. You lead the seven of spades, which the king wins as partner plays the three and South the five. Dummy now leads the queen of hearts, which runs to your king. What do you do next?

As well as the bidding, your hand and the dummy are the same as on the previous deal. The play is very nearly the same. Have you spotted the small but vital difference?

On the first trick partner played the three of spades – clearly a low card with the two on display in dummy. It conveys the message 'I can't help you much in spades. Please try some other suit next time.'

This does not seem the moment for a passive trump exit. Which minor should you choose? The greater length and strength of dummy's diamonds make it far more attractive to lead clubs than diamonds. Declarer is much more likely to want to discard clubs on diamonds than vice versa. You duly switch to a club – the five is as good as anything – after which your side makes a heart, a club and two diamonds to set the contract.

3.

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

	♠ K 9 7 ♥ Q 10 ♦ A 5 4 2 ♣ A Q 10 3		
--	--	--	--

West	North	East	South
Pass	3NT	1♣	1NT
		End	

You lead the five of spades. This goes to the two, ten and king. Declarer plays ace and another diamond. You win the second round as partner follows with the jack and six. What do you lead next?

A good general rule is to plug away at one suit unless there is good reason not to. If you flit from one suit to another, you will rarely set up long cards and you risk giving a trick each time you switch. Here you have good reason

to continue spades. Can you see it? The play to the first trick makes it entirely possible that partner started with A-J-10-x-x of spades – it is normal to play the lower of touching honours (the ten and jack) in third seat. This gives reason in itself to continue spades. On the layout shown, you defeat the contract by two tricks. Partner will run the spades and then cash the ace of hearts.

4.

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

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

South plays in 3NT after the same auction as on deal 3. You lead the five of spades. This goes to the two, queen and ace. Declarer plays ace and another diamond. You win the second round as partner follows with the jack and six. What do you lead next?

For the reasons explained on the previous deal, you should first examine the merits of continuing spades. How do you envisage the spade layout? Well, the queen and ace have gone; you can see the king in dummy. Who has the jack? Declarer must have the jack – if holding the queen and jack, partner would play the jack on the first trick, not the queen. This means that your opponent has three spade tricks, including two further stoppers.

This makes it most unlikely that playing another spade will beat the contract. Even if partner has both unseen aces, declarer can surely set up two tricks by knocking out just one of them. Those two tricks plus three spades and four diamonds will come to nine.

Since the clubs in dummy are much weaker than the hearts, you should switch to a club – the seven or eight is fine. As the cards lie, this defeats the contract without further ado. Your side makes four clubs and a diamond. The club switch might also work if your partner had A-J-10-x or K-J-10-x of clubs and the ace of hearts as an entry. ■

# THE GATHERING

by Roy Jones

On a dark rainy night, shortly after the completion of their evening meal, shadowy figures, both men and women, sometimes together, are seen clutching warm thermos flasks and pulling their coats closely around themselves. They hurry to their cars, bidding farewell to their families, who, in their turn, are wondering why their loved ones are leaving the comfort of their homes.

The figures climb quickly into their vehicles in various areas of the old mill town, casting quick glances at their wrist watches, a little anxious should the weather make them late for their assembly.

As the occupants gaze intently through the windscreen wipers, they notice other vehicles approaching the same junction. They reduce speed to turn onto a small bridge with a raging torrent of foaming water beneath. The many cars slow down further as they

travel alongside the river with giant trees swaying alongside what is now a bumpy track.

They arrive at a stone-covered area; switch off their engines and lights. Then pause for a moment, listening to the noises around them.

The muffled figures hurry across the stones, carefully watching out for pools of water whilst muttering to their fellows about the weather and possible luck with the red and black characters they are about to see.

They pass along a dark passageway into a brightly lit room a great deal warmer than it is outside. There are numerous tables, with groups gathering at each one, casting glances at their neighbours.

At the appointed time, an authoritative figure stands before them. They all grow silent and wait for the command to look at their own red and black characters and then, almost immediately, start bidding. ■

Mr Bridge

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250 Club	Beverley	Cavendish	Esher Bowling Club	Heathercroft
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Abacus	Biggar	Chelsea Bridge Circle	Evesham	Hemel Hempstead
Abbotskerswell	Blackheath	Cheltenham	Ewhurst & Ellens	Henley in Arden
Aberaeron	Blackmoor	Chesham	Green	Heswall
Abergavenny	Bletchingley	Chiltern Edge	Exmouth	Hexham
Aboyne Community	Blewbury	Chipping Norton	Exning Road	Highcliffe
Acacia	Bordon	Chiswick	Fairford	Community
Ace of Clubs	Boston	Church Minshull	Fakenham	Highfield
Aces Hi	Bourne End	Churchdown	Falmouth	Highgate
Acolites	Bradford	City of Derry	Farnham	
Alford	Bradford Abbas	Claygate	Fawley	
All Saints	Bramhall Village	Clifton	FCA	
Almscliffe	Brentham	Clitheroe	Five Valleys	
Alnwick	Briarley	Colchester Castle	Fleet Down	
Alpha	Bridge at I-Bean	Colwyn Bay	Flint	
Alsager	Bridge at Our Lady	Cooke R.F.C.	Fortfield	
Alternative	Queen of Peace	Corinium	Fownhope	
Amphill	Bridge of Allan	Cowplain	Framlingham	
Andover	Bridge U3A Reading	Coxley	Friday IMPs	
Andrew Robson	Bridport	Cranfield	Frinton	
Antonie	Bridport and	Cranleigh	Frome & District	
Arden	District Duplicate	Crawley	Fulbourn	
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North Walsham	Buchanan	Dingwall	Great Hollands	
Bach	Buckland	Ditton	Great Kingshill	
Bakewell	Bude	Douglas	Great Missenden	
Balmoral	Burnham and	Downham Market	Greyfriars	
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Basingstoke	Burton Bradstock	Dusedale	Grimsby Bridge Club	
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Bath Bridge School	Busbridge Duplicate	Easingwold	Gwent	Hogarth
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Bawburgh	Byfleet L.T.C	East Midlands	Hampton School of	Horley
Bear	Caen	East Sussex	Bridge	Hungerford
Beaumaris	Caernarfon	Easy Bridge Hertford	Handforth Hall	Hunstanton
Becclos	Cairngorm	Eccleshall	Harford	Hythe
Bedford	Camberley	Eden	Hartlepool	Ilford
Bedwas Duplicate	Camborne	Eden Park	Hartley Wintmey	Ilminster
Belmont	Cambridge	Edgware	Harwood	Ipswich Hospitals
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Maidenhead  
Maidenhead Duplicate  
Maidstone  
Malpas  
Manchester  
Marcham  
Marlborough  
Marlborough  
    Afternoon  
Marmion  
Medway  
Meopham  
Meridian  
Merseyside  
Mid Essex  
Misbourne  
Molescroft  
Monday B C  
    Billericay  
Monday B C Dinder  
Monmouth  
Morden Ruffians  
Moseley  
Moulton  
Mountnessing  
Mumbles  
Nailsea  
Newcastle-under-  
    Lyme  
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Newport  
Newquay  
Newton-le-Willows  
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Nonsuch  
Norfolk & Norwich  
Normandy  
North Cambridge  
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Northallerton  
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Nottingham  
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    Rownhams  
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Saddleworth  
    Grandslam  
Saham Toney  
Salisbury  
Scarborough and  
    District Contract  
Severn  
Shaftesbury  
Shanklin Conservative  
Sheffield  
Shrewsbury  
Silverton  
Sitting Bourne  
    Pavilion  
Sole Bay  
Somerset Keynes  
South Bucks  
South Bucks  
South Croydon

Southend & Leigh  
Southwold  
Spalding  
St. Anne's  
St. Herbert's  
St. John's  
St. Lawrence  
St. Leonards  
St. Mark's  
St. Piran's  
Stirling  
Stone  
Stowmarket  
Stratford St. Mary  
Stratford-Upon-Avon  
Suburb  
Sunday Colchester  
Sunday Ipswich  
Sutton Coldfield  
Sutton Coldfield U3A  
Swaffham  
Swanmore  
Swansea  
Tamworth  
Tattenhall  
Tatton  
Taunton  
Tavistock  
Tavistock  
    Monday Evening  
Telford  
Tettenhall  
Tewksbury  
Thane  
The 30 Club  
The Birches  
The Diamond  
The Friday B.C.  
The Friendly  
The Gables  
The Grove  
The Merlin  
The Monday B.C.  
The Mond  
The Pilgrims  
The Ryde  
The Thursday B.C.  
The Windsor  
Titchfield  
Tiverton  
Todmorden  
Torquay  
Torrance  
Towcester  
Traffords  
Trowbridge (County)

Tudor  
Turriff  
Tynemouth  
U3A Bexley  
U3A Bridge  
Upper Deal  
URA  
Vale of Glamorgan  
Village Bridge  
Wadebridge  
Wallasey  
Walton & Hersham  
Warkworth  
Warminster  
Warwick  
Waters Upton  
Waterside  
Weald Of Kent  
Welshpool  
Welwyn  
    Garden City  
Wendover Bromley  
Wendover Aylesbury  
West Hill  
West Norfolk and  
    Kings Lynn  
West Shore  
West Wight  
West Worthing  
Westbourne  
Westhead  
Westmeads  
Wharfedale  
Wherstead  
White Hill  
Whitemap  
Whitley Bay  
Wigan  
Wimbledon  
Windermere  
Winscombe and  
    District  
Wisbech  
Witney  
Worcester  
Worcestershire  
    County Night  
Worth  
Worthy Down  
Wrexham Garden  
    Village  
Writtle  
WUE  
Yateley & Hawley  
Yealm  
York



Lincoln (Eastgate)  
Lingwood  
Liskeard  
Liss  
Livebird  
Livesey  
Livingston  
Llanelli  
Looe  
Low Fell  
Lower Sunbury  
Lutterworth  
    Bridge Club

# ANSWERS TO THE BIDDING QUIZ ON PAGE 3 by BERNARD MAGEE

**1. Dealer West. E/W Vul.**

♠ A 8 2		♠ 7 3				
♥ Q 9 7 6 5 4 3	<table border="1"><tr><td>N</td><td>E</td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>S</td></tr></table>	N	E	W	S	♥ 8
N	E					
W	S					
♦ 4		♦ K 9 8 3 2				
♣ 4 3		♣ A 9 7 6 5				

West North East South  
?

Pass

Did you notice the vulnerability? Unfavourable – often described as a ‘red light’ for pre-empting. You should have a very good suit to open 3♥ at this vulnerability – your suit is far from that. On this hand, your opponents might well be able to make 4♠, but 3♥ doubled will be worth much more for them – even with a normal break, you may go three off for -800!

You should only make a vulnerable pre-empt with a robust suit.

**2. Dealer East. N/S Vul.**

♠ K 9 8 7 4		♠ A Q 6 5 3				
♥ 2	<table border="1"><tr><td>N</td><td>E</td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>S</td></tr></table>	N	E	W	S	♥ 7 6
N	E					
W	S					
♦ 6 4		♦ A 8 3 2				
♣ J 8 6 3 2		♣ Q 9				

West North East South  
? 1♠ Pass

4♠

This time the vulnerability is very different! Favourable is a ‘green light’ for pre-empting. Here the vulnerability is right, you are weak with five-card support for partner and hold a singleton. You should make a direct jump to 4♠.

If you go down, it will be by fewer than three tricks – so even doubled it would be worth less than an opponents’ game.

With the hand given, partner will make nine tricks and that will just cost 100 points if someone doubles. Meanwhile your opponents should be able to make 11 tricks in hearts for +650. How are they supposed to bid 5♥ with any confidence after 1♠-Pass-4♠?

With a weak hand, big support, distribution and a ‘green light’, you should go for it.

**3. Dealer West. Love All.**

♠ K 4 3		♠ A 9 2				
♥ K Q 7 2	<table border="1"><tr><td>N</td><td>E</td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>S</td></tr></table>	N	E	W	S	♥ J 4
N	E					
W	S					
♦ Q 3 2		♦ K 8 7 5				
♣ K 8 4		♣ A 7 3 2				

West North East South  
1NT Pass 2NT Pass  
?

Pass

Your opening 1NT showed 12-14 points and now your partner has raised to 2NT. This is a limit bid, inviting game – he is suggesting that you bid game if maximum. With 13 points, you are neither minimum nor maximum, so you have a decision to make! However, to say yes to an invitation with fewer than maximum points you must have a good reason: a decent five-card suit or a selection of tens and nines. Your hand has neither of these attributes, no aces either and the worst possible shape – 4-3-3-3 – completely flat. It is worth closer to 12 than 13 (let alone 14).

Even with your partner’s 12 points, your combined hands will struggle to make eight tricks; you do have 25 points but no strong suits and few intermediates.

**4. Dealer North. Love All.**

♠ A K 6 4		♠ J 7 3				
♥ A J 6 3	<table border="1"><tr><td>N</td><td>E</td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>S</td></tr></table>	N	E	W	S	♥ K Q 9 4
N	E					
W	S					
♦ 8 7 6 5		♦ 2				
♣ 5		♣ A K 8 6 4				

West North East South  
? 1♦ Dbl Pass

2♦

Your partner’s double is for take-out and there is no doubt that you have a very nice hand in support. You will surely have a good fit in one of your majors and thus you should include your singleton in its evaluation: 7 losers or, counting points, 12 HCP + 3 = 15 total points.

Both forms of evaluation should lead you to the same conclusion – together with your partner’s opening values you have enough for game. Which game is it to be?

When you have enough strength for game, but cannot be sure which game, then make a bid of the opponents’ suit, 2♦, to force the bidding on. Here you would need to bid the opponents’ suit twice: (1♦)-Double-2♦\*-3♣-3♦\*-3♥-4♥. East would first show his clubs. Then, when you repeat the opponents’ suit with 3♦, he would realise that you were more interested in the majors and show his better major – 3♥. Once you find out about partner’s hearts, you know the game you want to play – 4♥.

**5. Dealer North. Game All.**

♠ K 9 7 4		♠ 10 5				
♥ K 6	<table border="1"><tr><td>N</td><td>E</td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>S</td></tr></table>	N	E	W	S	♥ A 8 5 2
N	E					
W	S					
♦ 8 3 2		♦ A K Q 4				
♣ Q 7 6 5		♣ K 10 4				

West North East South  
? 1NT Dbl 2♠

Double

Firstly, what did your partner’s double mean? He is strong and he expects 1NT to go down – he will usually have 15 or more points. Put that together with your eight points and you can see that this is your hand. Whenever one of your partnership has made a penalty double, you should be on the look out for another penalty double – i.e. do not let your opponents off the hook. What do you need to double them again?

Length in their suit and the majority of points is what you need. Well you certainly have the majority of points, and your spades are long enough. You should continue the job your partner started and double again. 1NT doubled might have been three off and 2♠ doubled may be three off as well = 800 points.

Try not to let your opponents escape once you have doubled them – however, if you are short in the suit they run to, you do need to be more circumspect and bidding on yourself is often the wisest choice. ■