

## Ask David continued

**Q** My partner in 3NT had won a trick in dummy and said ‘run the diamonds.’ The defenders said that as he had not said ‘from the top’, I (dummy) should play the lowest diamond next. We called the director, who confirmed this. The contract duly went down. Was the ruling correct?

Gordon Southgate,  
Gravesend.

**A** In general, it is difficult to say a director is wrong when he gives a judgement ruling. Nevertheless, it sounds as if he was wrong. When you make an incomplete designation, such as saying ‘spade’ instead of ‘ace of spades’, there are rules for which card is played. If you name a suit but not a rank, the lowest card is deemed played ‘unless declarer’s different intention is incontrovertible’. However, when he is running a long suit and he calls for that suit, most directors would say that his intention is incontrovertibly to play the top one first. Whether his intention is incontrovertible is a judgement decision.

This case seems a little different from that. ‘Run the diamonds’ is a clear instruction (though the law-makers do not like it and have said so). So long as this was what declarer said, the director was wrong: ‘Run the diamonds’ is always understood to mean from the top.



**Q** After the auction below, my partner and I considered our cards and the bidding:

West	North	East	South
	1♦	Double	2♦
3♣	Pass	4♣	Pass
5♣	End		

At this point, East had bidding cards of 1♣ and 4♣ in front of him. On the strength of this, forgetting North’s 1♦ and East’s now invisible double, we concluded that it was my lead (South). I led, face down, and my partner said ‘No questions’; I then faced the opening lead. Our opponents then claimed an ‘opening lead out of turn’, which the director confirmed.

Two questions arise:  
**1. Are we expected to remember the bidding?**  
**2. Can opponents who put away their bidding cards before the opening lead ever claim an ‘opening lead out of turn’?**

John Barley, Norwich.

**A** 1. No, not until the opening lead is face up. Bidding cards should always stay on the table until the opening lead is face up. You could always ask for a review, or even demand they put the cards out again.

2. Every case depends on its merits. Generally, if you lead out of turn, it is your fault. However, in the actual case, if the 1♣ bid was showing, the director would not usually treat this as a lead out of turn.

You might ask your director if he can remind the pair concerned of the correct procedure. ■

David Stevenson answers all queries based on the facts supplied. Neither Mr Bridge nor David Stevenson has any way of knowing whether those facts are correct or complete.

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# Stayman and Transfers

**Q** **Playing Stayman, transfers and Gerber, my partner opens 1NT (12-14). What should I bid with:**

- ♠ Void
- ♥ A K J 7
- ♦ A 8
- ♣ Q J 10 9 6 4 3

Chris Dicker, Tavistock.

**A** You say that you play transfers. I assume you mean red-suit transfers (for the majors only). Playing four-suit transfers, you could start with 2♠ to show clubs. With four-suit transfers, it is normal to play that the next bid up denies support (one of the top three honours) while completion of the transfer promises support (or vice versa). That would tell you whether partner had a fitting club honour.

With standard methods, you could start with 3♣, planning to rebid 4♣ if partner makes a discouraging rebid such as 3NT. After the natural club bid, 4♣ would not be Gerber.

To be honest, a direct leap to 6♣ over 1NT has something to commend it. It would be unlucky if partner had neither the ace nor the king of clubs. Indeed, I ran a

quick computer simulation, which suggested that 6♣ makes about 90% of the time facing 12-14 balanced.



**Q** **What do you think of using Stayman and transfers in this sequence?**

West	North	East	South
1NT	Dbl	Pass	?

Ian Brebner, by e-mail

**A** Letting doubler's partner use Stayman and transfers is rare, for good reason.

(i) The doubler has not shown a balanced hand – although North might have a strong no-trump opener, an unbalanced hand is possible. If partner opens 1NT, it is right that responder is captain – you know far more about partner's hand than partner does about yours. This is not the case when partner doubles a 1NT opening. You know the minimum strength (15 points), but that is just about all you know.

(ii) You rarely need to have a constructive sequence (if you have a good hand, you defend 1NT doubled). Stayman especially and transfers to an extent have maximum value in a

constructive sequence. Although a transfer would conceal the doubler's hand, it relieves the 1NT opener from making the opening lead, so it is just swings and roundabouts on that front.



**Q** **Some at our club play that, if responder uses Stayman over 1NT, opener rebids 2NT with 4-4 in the majors. I am not keen on the idea myself. What do think of it?**

Mr Woodward, by e-mail

**A** The disadvantage of allowing opener to rebid 2NT when holding four cards in each major is that responder cannot really use Stayman on a weak hand. I cannot see any advantage to playing the 2NT option, so I agree with you that it is better not to play it. The better way to show 4-4 in the majors is to rebid 2♥ and then, unless partner raises hearts, show the spades next time. It is quite safe bidding 4♠ after a sequence like 1NT-2♣-2♥-3NT – responder must have four spades to have used Stayman.

If you play that 1NT-2♣-2♥-2NT does not promise four spades (because you

play non-promissory Stayman), again there is a better solution. The thing to do is to play that after 1NT-2♣-2♥, 2♠ by responder shows four spades and 2NT denies four spades. In all cases, opener has no need to bid 2NT over 2♣.



**Q** **My cousin in Australia tells me that he and his partners play American Acrol or Precision. What are the differences?**

Christine Marquina, Nottingham.

**A** Yes, Acrol as played in Australia differs from what you are likely to be familiar with in the UK. It has much in common with Standard American (15-17 1NT and mainly 5-card majors), hence the composite name, American Acrol.

Precision in Australia is, I imagine, the same as Precision over here and elsewhere in the world. The basics are: 1♣ strong (16+) and artificial with 1♦ negative, 1♦ 11-15, 2+ diamonds, 1♥/1♠ five-card suit 11-15, 1NT 13-15, 2♣ 11-15 6 clubs or 5 clubs and a 4-card major, 2♦ 11-15 3-suiter short in diamonds, 2♥/2♠ weak. ▶

**Q** 1. My partner opens 1♠ and the next hand passes. What should I bid with four points and a 2-7-2-2 shape?

2. As West, I have 13 points, five clubs, four spades and one diamond.

West	North	East	South
			1♦
2♣	Pass	Pass	2♦
2♠	Pass	3♥	End

3♥ went down. I thought I was asking for preference, but my partner said that my 2♠ was forcing, obliging her to bid. Is this correct?

Shirley Rose,  
Camberley, Surrey.

**A** 1. With only four points, you ought to pass. If there is any further bidding, you can bid your hearts without fear that partner will put you with more values than you have.

2. With a 4-3-1-5 shape and 1♦ opened on your right, it is usually better to double than to bid 2♣. Your hand is playable in three suits. Only if all the strength is in the black suits and the clubs are good, for example ♠K-J-x-x and ♣A-K-Q-x-x, would I consider a 2♣ overall. Even then, I think you should double on the second round rather than bid 2♠ and this would still be for takeout as your partner has not bid.

In your actual sequence, 2♠ is not forcing. Bids are rarely forcing when only one member of the partnership has bid.

With your undisclosed 3-card heart support, it sounds as if hearts was the best trump suit – but perhaps you should have

been in 2♥ rather than 3♥. Presumably you would have reached 2♥ if you had doubled at either your first or second turn. Whether the opponents would have let you play there or competed to 3♦ is another matter.



**Q** What should I have bid on the hand below after the hand on my right opened 1♠? I bid 2♠ and we ended up in 5♣, making all thirteen tricks.

- ♠ Void
- ♥ A 7 4
- ♦ A Q 4
- ♣ A K Q J 7 5 3

Tilly Howard, Edgware.

**A** If you play 2♠ the old-fashioned way, showing a very strong hand, it seems fair. The snag is that, if partner bids 3♦ or 3♥, you will be unable to show the club suit below the four level.

These days many play 2♠ as showing a two-suited hand, ruling out that option. What else can you bid? The hand is too strong to bid 3♣ (even if you play that as strong) or for a pre-emptive 5♣. You could try 3♠, asking partner to bid 3NT if holding a spade stopper. You risk missing a slam, yes, but you would not expect partner to have many values given the opening bid on your right. If you do not bid 3♠, you start with a double. Most likely, you will bid 3♣ at your next turn, though even that does not fully express your values. To be honest, it is a hard hand to bid. At pairs, I would probably overcall 3♠. At rubber bridge (when honours count), I would be more inclined to look for a club contract. ▶

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### Ask Julian continued

**Q** On the last deal of the night, my partner and I needed to get game to make rubber. We had:

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

N  
E  
W  
S

♠ A 7 3  
♥ A 10 5 2  
♦ K 7  
♣ A 10 5 2

The bidding was 1♠-3NT. Our opponents said our bidding was poor and we were lucky that 3NT made. How should we have bid?  
Richard Smith, Hampshire.

**A** 3NT, played by the hand with the king of diamonds, has nine certain tricks. This makes it a very good contract! Since you ask, the textbook sequence is 1♠-2♣-3♣-4♠. By jumping to 3NT one risks missing a better contract in a suit, possibly a slam. Had there not been nine top tricks, 3NT might fail on a diamond lead; even so, with 15 points facing an opening bid, it is likely to have some chance whatever opener has.

♣♦♥♠

**Q** What do you think of North's bidding below? It is game all and pairs.

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

West	North	East	South
1♥	Dbl	Pass	1♠
2♣	4♠	Dbl	End

4♠ doubled went four down vulnerable for 1100.  
Clive Hutchinson, Crewe.

**A** Double is fine but not 4♠. When partner has to bid, as here, the rule is to raise to a level lower than if partner's bid were a response to a one-level opening. Using the losing trick count, a raise of the forced 1♠ bid thus shows the following:

- 2♠ six-loser hand
- 3♠ five-loser hand
- 4♠ four-loser hand

North has a five or five and a half loser hand (it depends upon whether you count A-J-10 as one loser or one and a half losers), so 3♠ is the value bid. 4♠ is a clear overbid.

♣♦♥♠

**Q** Partner opens 1NT (12-14). The next hand doubles. With one point, can I redouble to find the best fit?  
Margaret Stewart, Buckhurst Hill, Essex.

**A** At a low level a redouble is often a rescue move, sometimes called an SOS redouble or Koch-Werner redouble. However, after partner opens 1NT and the next hand doubles, a redouble is usually for business. If you redouble and have not discussed the matter, partner will assume you hold at least 9 or 10 points (6 or 7 if 1NT was strong) – enough to think your side has the balance of power!

Even if you and your partner agreed to play the redouble of 1NT as an escape mechanism, it is unwise to play it as a general rescue. You can hardly have support for all four suits. ▶

**Q** A new partner has suggested playing a discard system whereby a message is passed depending on whether the discard is an odd or an even card. Please can you explain?

Betty Anne Henderson, Woodcote, Oxfordshire.

**A** I know of two methods of this type.

With odd even discards, the discard of an odd card (3, 5 etc) encourages the suit discarded, while the discard of an even card (2, 8 etc) discourages that suit but shows suit preference between the other two. For example, on a spade lead, the three of hearts (an odd card) asks for hearts, the two of hearts (even and low) asks for clubs while the eight of hearts (even and high) asks for diamonds.

If you have the right cards, odd even discards work well. The main advantage is that if (as often happens) you can only afford to discard one suit, you have a way of asking for any suit. What is the downside? You do not always have the right cards! If, in my example, you had Q-10-8-5-3 of hearts, you would not be able to ask for a club by discarding a heart. Indeed (if you could spare only a heart), you could find yourself forced to signal for one of the red suits. If you get the chance to make two discards, you can sometimes cancel an unintended message – I play that a high-low with odd cards means

you do not want the suit after all.

The other method I know is DODD discards. These are easier to remember but rather less popular. They are similar, but now even cards encourage and odd cards are off-putting (discouraging).

The way I know DODD discards, there is no suit-preference element – the odd cards ask for the other suit of the same colour.

For more details, see [www.mrbridge.co.uk/library/Suit\\_preference\\_discards.pdf](http://www.mrbridge.co.uk/library/Suit_preference_discards.pdf)



**Q** In a friendly rubber game, I was dealer and when I looked at my hand was amazed to see that all the cards were in the exact position I would have placed them myself.

I had spades on the left, followed by hearts, clubs and finishing with diamonds, all going down from the highest to the lowest. How do I work out the odds for this?

Name and address supplied.

**A** The chance that the first card you pick up is the card you would place first is 1 in 13, the chance the second is 1 in 12 and so on. The chance they are all the same place is thus 1 in 13\*12\*11...3\*2\*1 (13!) or 1 in 6,227,020,800.

By the way, I recommend that you do not always sort your suits in the same order. With the way you suggest, certain holdings risk being rather obvious, for example, a singleton two of spades or a singleton ace of diamonds. ■

E-mail your questions for Julian to: [julianpottage@mrbridge.co.uk](mailto:julianpottage@mrbridge.co.uk)

# DECLARER PLAY QUIZ



by David Huggett

(Answers on page 42)

**Y**ou are South as declarer playing teams or rubber bridge. In each case, what is your play strategy?

1.

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

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ A 3  
♥ Q 4 3  
♦ A Q J 7 4  
♣ J 9 3

3.

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

	N	
W		E
	S	

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

West	North	East	South
		Pass	1NT
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♦
Pass	3NT	End	

West leads the ♣6. What is your plan?

You open 2NT and North raises to 3NT. West leads the ♠5 and East follows with the ♠10. How do you plan the play?

2.

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

	N	
W		E
	S	

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

4.

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

	N	
W		E
	S	

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

You are declarer in 4♥ and West leads the ♦2. How do you plan the play?

You open 1NT and North raises to 3NT. West leads the ♥4. How do you plan the play?



# A Walk in Spring

**T**his little piece of England where the birds are singing, the sun shining and the air seriously intoxicating – it is all too easy to fall under its magic spell and dream on, contentedly...

To most of us, lucky enough to experience it, spring in the country is the most exciting time of the year. So much that might have seemed gloomy, downtrodden and to all intents and purposes dead and finished, is gradually bursting forth with a new vibrant enthusiasm that is a joy to behold.

Whereas only a few weeks ago everything lay covered with a thick blanket of snow and contrasting colours were non-existent, the scene now is – oh so different! Blues and greens, pinks and yellows combine in exquisite harmony so that even the most casual observer could hardly fail to be impressed. As for the would-be modern-day Constables, the scene is set for something to drool over at the prospect of what their canvasses might portray.

## The End of Winter

Yes, winter has truly shed her overcoat and revealed a glimpse of the magical metamorphosis that is slowly taking place.

Cindy, my beautiful golden Retriever, has joined me for our usual daily walkies and, although our visual delights may not be the same, she is clearly in high spirits. She is prancing backwards and forwards, nose close to the ground, enjoying the country smells. Perhaps spring offers something extra

special to the doggy world; at any rate, there is little doubt that Cindy is full of approval.

Before we continue our walk, here is a hand you might like to consider.

### Dealer South. Love All.

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



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

West	North	East	South
2♥	3♦	Pass	1♠
Pass	4♠	End	3♠

West cashes three top hearts, East following to the first and then discarding a small diamond and a small club. West now switches to the jack of clubs. What are your plans for making the remainder of the tricks?

As we walk across the fields heading for the marshy grounds some way beyond, yellow seems to be the predominant flower colour. Primroses and cowslips are scattered here and there while buttercups are everywhere. As soon as we reach softer ground, we shall come across the marsh marigolds to complete the yellow carpet.

The marshes are popular with many birds, lapwing, snipe and redshank in particular. In fact, Cindy has just disturbed a snipe that zigzags off in its own inimitable style accompanied by a loud harsh screech of complaint. Quite unabashed, Cindy looks very pleased with herself and looks round as if to say, 'This is fun!' In the distance, I see what appears to be an inanimate stick-like object protruding from the ground. As we get nearer, I recognise what it really is – a heron, standing motionless on one leg, no doubt waiting to pounce on some unsuspecting prey. These birds have lightning reflexes that give their chosen meal, which varies from fish and frogs to beetles and water voles, little chance of escape once the heron has sussed them.

Now, let us go back to our hand. This is the full deal.

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

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

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

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

South is in 4♠. West leads three top hearts and then switches to the jack of clubs. ▶

If not given as a problem, you might be tempted, after winning the ace of clubs, to play off two rounds of trumps before cursing your luck at the unfortunate break. Without the technical knowledge required to deal with this sort of situation, you might cash the king of spades and then take an inspired view by finessing the ten of spades on the next round. This is successful in the event, but disastrous whenever West then holds the jack.

**The Correct Play**

The correct approach is this. Since the most likely snag – if there is one at all – is for East to hold ♠J-x-x-x, declarer should prepare the ground for just such an eventuality. He takes the ace of clubs, cashes the ace of spades, the ace of diamonds and ruffs a diamond! The king of spades now exposes the position so he ruffs a second diamond. His spade holding is now the queen, ten over East’s jack, seven.

It remains only to enter dummy with the queen of clubs and continue playing winning diamonds until East ruffs and declarer overruffs. This position becomes possible only if declarer reduces his trumps to the same number as East. So, declarer lands the game instead of scoring minus fifty.

When we get home, I say to Cindy, ‘You see, my gorgeous one, it can be necessary – indeed vital – to waste one’s trumps by ruffing actual winners. Seems crazy, but when needs must. Funny old game, is it not?’ She wags her tail and looks up at me giving a very fair impression of sympathetic understanding. What a dog! ■

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# DEFENCE QUIZ



by **Julian Pottage**

(Answers on page 47)

You are West in the defensive positions below. It is your turn to play.

1.      ♠ J 8 7  
         ♥ A J 2  
         ♦ A J 9 8 2  
         ♣ Q 7

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

N	E
W	S

3.      ♠ A 7 6 2  
         ♥ J 7  
         ♦ Q J 10 6 2  
         ♣ Q 2

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

N	E
W	S

West	North	East	South
Pass	6NT	End	2NT

You lead the ♣J, covered all around. Declarer now leads the ♦Q. What do you do?

West	North	East	South
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♠
End			

You lead the ♣J, covered all around. Declarer now leads the ♠J. What do you do?

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

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

N	E
W	S

West	North	East	South
Pass	2♦	Pass	2♥
Pass	2♠	Pass	3NT
End			

You lead the ♠J: two, five, ace. Declarer now leads the ♦10. What do you do?

4.      ♠ Q 10 4  
         ♥ J 6  
         ♦ A J 10 9 6 4  
         ♣ J 9

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

N	E
W	S

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

You lead the ♥5. Partner wins with the nine, cashes the ♠K and reverts to hearts, leading the king. Declarer wins and leads the ♦Q. What do you do?

# Coming Soon

by Bernard Magee

## 1. Love All. Dealer North.

♠ K3  
♥ A75  
♦ QJ1092  
♣ 632

♠ 76  
♥ QJ4  
♦ A843  
♣ KJ97

♠ AJ952  
♥ K82  
♦ K7  
♣ AQ5

♠ Q1084  
♥ 10963  
♦ 65  
♣ 1084

## 2. N/S Game. Dealer East.

♠ Q873  
♥ 8  
♦ KJ108  
♣ J1053

♠ J64  
♥ AQ74  
♦ 97  
♣ Q974

♠ AK952  
♥ J109652  
♦ Void  
♣ K8

♠ 10  
♥ K3  
♦ AQ65432  
♣ A62

## 3. E/W Game. Dealer South.

♠ 10  
♥ Q104  
♦ Q98  
♣ Q109754

♠ AQ653  
♥ 6  
♦ A7  
♣ AKJ62

♠ 987  
♥ K7532  
♦ J104  
♣ 83

♠ KJ42  
♥ AJ98  
♦ K6532  
♣ Void

## 4. Game All. Dealer West.

♠ AQ53  
♥ 4  
♦ AJ7  
♣ A9543

♠ 9742  
♥ 6  
♦ 8652  
♣ Q1082

♠ K1086  
♥ 8753  
♦ KQ3  
♣ J7

♠ J  
♥ AKQJ1092  
♦ 1094  
♣ K6

**B**ridge has had various forays into television, but none quite like *Celebrity Grand Slam Bridge* on Sky Arts 2.

Eight celebrities compete with each other to win money for their chosen charity. The focus is not on brilliant bridge, nor even on the hands at all, but on the enjoyment and fascination of our wonderful game.

People often ask me how you can get more people playing the game: well show them this show and surely



they will be encouraged to start. It emphasizes the best elements of bridge: social, competitive, enjoyable, challenging and a great way to raise money for charity.

The players vary hugely in standard, in fact they include a beginner Kay Burley, the Sky News Anchor, who has had just three weeks of lessons. However, the story is not about the quality of play or bidding, but how the players interact and how the enjoyment of the game comes across.

You see the bidding, but see little of the play, and no hands layouts are shown. However, we have printed the deals in this magazine for you: so you can

appreciate the action by having BRIDGE on your lap.

The programmes are compered by Clive Anderson who played bridge at University, but who was very glad not to be under scrutiny at the table! These, for the most part, inexperienced players are very brave for volunteering: allowing yourself to be filmed making mistakes is courageous in itself. The variable standard of the bridge makes it all the more watchable – it is what most

bridge is like – and it shows how people can enjoy bridge at whatever level they play. There are almost no conventions in sight and certainly no alert cards.

## WHO WILL YOU SUPPORT?

Part of the fun of this show is following a particular personality and hoping that they will win – the group of eight come from all sorts of walks of life and play bridge in all sorts of ways. Do you support the better bridge players, the better-looking players, the best talkers, the quietest... make your choice and then hope the results go your way! The eight players are shown overleaf. ▶p26

## 5. N/S Game. Dealer North.

♠ 7654  
♥ AK9  
♦ QJ765  
♣ 9

♠ AQJ98  
♥ Q65  
♦ 10  
♣ A863

♠ K1032  
♥ 874  
♦ 2  
♣ QJ1072

♠ Void  
♥ J1032  
♦ AK9843  
♣ K54

## 6. E/W Game. Dealer East.

♠ KQJ107  
♥ 1043  
♦ 82  
♣ K87

♠ A652  
♥ AQ  
♦ AKQJ  
♣ AQ5

♠ 4  
♥ K762  
♦ 7643  
♣ 6432

♠ 983  
♥ J985  
♦ 1095  
♣ J109

## 7. Game All. Dealer South.

♠ K76  
♥ A432  
♦ AKQ3  
♣ J3

♠ AJ2  
♥ KQ109  
♦ 42  
♣ A765

♠ 1098543  
♥ 86  
♦ 87  
♣ 984

♠ Q  
♥ J75  
♦ J10965  
♣ KQ102

## 8. Love All. Dealer West.

♠ J632  
♥ J94  
♦ 2  
♣ AQ742

♠ Q1097  
♥ A32  
♦ AK763  
♣ 5

♠ AK8  
♥ Void  
♦ Q954  
♣ KJ10986

♠ 54  
♥ KQ108765  
♦ J108  
♣ 3

9. E/W Game. Dealer North.

♠ Void  
♥ Q986  
♦ A1052  
♣ KQJ95

♠ KJ96542	♠ AQ1087
♥ 32	♥ AK1074
♦ 73	♦ Q4
♣ A8	♣ 3

♠ 3  
♥ J5  
♦ KJ986  
♣ 107642

10. Game All. Dealer East.

♠ 6  
♥ Q  
♦ K105432  
♣ J10743

♠ Q432	♠ 10875
♥ J10732	♥ A
♦ 9	♦ QJ86
♣ AK5	♣ Q862

♠ AKJ9  
♥ K98654  
♦ A7  
♣ 9

11. Love All. Dealer South.

♠ AQ  
♥ AQ984  
♦ A10653  
♣ 5

♠ J10954	♠ 8763
♥ 3	♥ 762
♦ Q8	♦ KJ97
♣ Q10976	♣ K8

♠ K2  
♥ KJ105  
♦ 42  
♣ AJ432

12. N/S Game. Dealer West.

♠ 10975  
♥ 1072  
♦ 83  
♣ J1087

♠ K432	♠ A86
♥ 643	♥ AQ8
♦ K76	♦ A54
♣ Q42	♣ AK93

♠ QJ  
♥ KJ95  
♦ QJ1092  
♣ 65

## Mike Gattig



**Former England and Middlesex cricket captain and now a commentator on the sport.**

He played a lot of bridge in pavilions, but would be more of a social player – middle of the pack!

**Chosen charity:** Lords Taverners – raising money to give young people, particularly those with special needs, a sporting chance.

## Dave Rowntree



**Drummer with the pop group Blur.**

The youngest player by some margin, he played the game in the back of tour buses all around the world. By his own admission, he is quieter at the table than he is with his drums.

**Chosen charity:** Amicus-alj – aims to help provide legal representation for those awaiting capital trial and punishment in the US and raise awareness of potential abuses of their rights.

## Susan Hampshire



**Actress, famous for her role as Fleur in 'The Forsyte Saga'.**

A quiet style at the bridge table may help her – being easy to play with is so important and you are unlikely to find a nicer partner.

**Chosen charity:** National Osteoporosis Society – dedicated to improving the diagnosis, prevention and treatment of osteoporosis in the UK.

## Pattie Boyd



**Photographer and writer, former wife of George Harrison and of Eric Clapton.**

She shows some aggressive bidding and card play and might be one to follow.

**Chosen charity:** Action on Addiction – aims to disarm addiction, through research, treatment, family support, education and training.

13. Game All. Dealer North.

♠ J1082  
♥ 1062  
♦ K862  
♣ J7

♠ K765	♠ A
♥ AQ74	♥ J53
♦ Q9	♦ A53
♣ 953	♣ K108642

♠ Q943  
♥ K98  
♦ J1074  
♣ AQ

14. Love All. Dealer East.

♠ 10  
♥ 10432  
♦ AQ106  
♣ 7532

♠ 765	♠ AJ942
♥ 865	♥ K7
♦ J	♦ 9542
♣ KQ10984	♣ A6

♠ KQ83  
♥ AQJ9  
♦ K873  
♣ J

15. N/S Game. Dealer South.

♠ Q53  
♥ AK109743  
♦ J10  
♣ 3

♠ A642	♠ KJ10987
♥ J82	♥ Void
♦ Q95	♦ 432
♣ A98	♣ QJ102

♠ Void  
♥ Q65  
♦ AK876  
♣ K7654

16. E/W Game. Dealer West.

♠ QJ1097  
♥ AJ9  
♦ 843  
♣ 106

♠ Void	♠ AK2
♥ K82	♥ Q4
♦ AK1095	♦ QJ762
♣ K7542	♣ AJ3

♠ 86543  
♥ 107653  
♦ Void  
♣ Q98

# Bridge Players

20 April to  
26 April  
from 7pm

## 17. Love All. Dealer North.

♠ 93  
♥ AJ10  
♦ 9432  
♣ 10843  
♠ QJ106      ♠ AK84  
♥ Q75      ♥ K9  
♦ Q8765      ♦ AK  
♣ 5      ♣ AK762  
♠ 752  
♥ 86432  
♦ J10  
♣ QJ9

## 18. N/S Game. Dealer East.

♠ Q76  
♥ Void  
♦ A954  
♣ A108732  
♠ 1032      ♠ Void  
♥ AQJ106      ♥ 98743  
♦ K862      ♦ 1073  
♣ Q      ♣ KJ954  
♠ AKJ9854  
♥ K52  
♦ QJ  
♣ 6

## 19. E/W Game. Dealer South.

♠ J6  
♥ A852  
♦ J3  
♣ AK543  
♠ Q8      ♠ K97432  
♥ KQJ1094      ♥ Void  
♦ Q1065      ♦ 9872  
♣ 2      ♣ J108  
♠ A105  
♥ 763  
♦ AK4  
♣ Q976

## 20. Game All. Dealer West.

♠ K64  
♥ K76  
♦ Q542  
♣ Q97  
♠ Q85      ♠ 10973  
♥ AQ84      ♥ J1093  
♦ KJ93      ♦ 8  
♣ A6      ♣ J1053  
♠ AJ2  
♥ 52  
♦ A1076  
♣ K842

## James Mates



### ITN journalist and broadcaster.

Another keen bridge player, and possibly the most competitive of the group – he would have to start out as the favourite, but perhaps the other players will be nervous playing with him?

**Chosen charity:** The Rory Peck Trust offers discretionary grants to the families of freelance news-gatherers killed whilst on assignment.

## Sue Lawley



### Radio and TV presenter, host of Desert Island Discs for 18 years.

A keen bridge player and would be one of the better players on show.

**Chosen charity:** Budleigh Salterton Literary Festival – this Devon town is hosting its first Literary Festival in 2009.

## Kay Burley



### Sky News Anchor.

How cruel to throw a beginner to the lions! However, what is so good about the show, is that there are no lions at all and although very nervous, Kay is seen to bid better than many of the other players because of her lessons and 'untainted' bridge knowledge. You will be urging her up the leader board as the series progresses.

**Chosen charity:** MacMillan Cancer Support – improves the lives of those affected by Cancer.

## Val McDermid



### Best-selling author of crime thrillers including 'Wire in the Blood'.

Another player who is very quiet at the table, but who may grow on you throughout the series.

**Chosen charity:** Eaves Housing for Women Limited (The Poppy Project) provides accommodation and support to women who have been trafficked into prostitution.

## 21. N/S Game. Dealer North.

♠ 98  
♥ KQ52  
♦ KJ4  
♣ KJ102  
♠ A3      ♠ KJ107652  
♥ J3      ♥ A10  
♦ 732      ♦ 1085  
♣ 986543      ♣ 7  
♠ Q4  
♥ 98764  
♦ AQ96  
♣ AQ

## 22. E/W Game. Dealer East.

♠ QJ86  
♥ K4  
♦ 9732  
♣ QJ5  
♠ A7432      ♠ K95  
♥ 1087      ♥ AQ965  
♦ AKQ6      ♦ J104  
♣ 7      ♣ 32  
♠ 10  
♥ J32  
♦ 85  
♣ AK109864

## 23. Game All. Dealer South.

♠ KJ3  
♥ A432  
♦ Q765  
♣ K10  
♠ 1054      ♠ AQ2  
♥ 76      ♥ KQJ85  
♦ KJ4      ♦ A2  
♣ AQ843      ♣ J65  
♠ 9876  
♥ 109  
♦ 10983  
♣ 972

## 24. Love All. Dealer West.

♠ AK8543  
♥ AQ96  
♦ A43  
♣ Void  
♠ 96      ♠ 107  
♥ J1054      ♥ 8732  
♦ Q7      ♦ J986  
♣ J9765      ♣ A83  
♠ QJ2  
♥ K  
♦ K1052  
♣ KQ1042

**25. E/W Game. Dealer North.**

♠ 2	
♥ AQ10	
♦ KJ10983	
♣ KQJ	
♠ A107	♠ KQJ84
♥ 9832	♥ KJ6
♦ Void	♦ 62
♣ A98765	♣ 1042
♠ 9653	
♥ 754	
♦ AQ754	
♣ 3	

**26. Game All. Dealer East.**

♠ A4	
♥ AKJ8642	
♦ 5	
♣ J96	
♠ Q863	♠ KJ1097
♥ Q73	♥ 109
♦ AQ64	♦ K92
♣ 54	♣ AK3
♠ 52	
♥ 5	
♦ J10873	
♣ Q10872	

**27. Love All. Dealer South.**

♠ KJ985	
♥ K762	
♦ 85	
♣ K10	
♠ 4	♠ Q72
♥ Q94	♥ AJ3
♦ KJ763	♦ AQ1092
♣ Q753	♣ J6
♠ A1063	
♥ 1085	
♦ 4	
♣ A9842	

**28. N/S Game. Dealer West.**

♠ J7	
♥ QJ10	
♦ 86542	
♣ K42	
♠ KQ1043	♠ 9652
♥ 865	♥ 2
♦ AJ	♦ K1093
♣ J109	♣ Q653
♠ A8	
♥ AK9743	
♦ Q7	
♣ A87	

**FORMAT**

The game is played with Chicago scoring, with the same hands being played in two rooms. We can compare what happens at the two tables – the results do not often give the impression that they have been playing the same deal, but that is what makes it interesting.

The emphasis is on watching the players' reactions at their turn to bid and hearing the comments they make.

Each player partners everybody else once: they play four deals with each, with an episode covering four deals at a time. You might expect the most talented bridge player to win. However, one of the most fascinating elements of the game of bridge is the partnership: being comfortable with your partner allows you to play so much better. Quite often in an event like this, where the participants are of varying standards, it will be the players who are the easiest to play with that will do the best. 'Quiet and gentle' may well overcome 'confident and loud'! This is just one other element to bear in mind when picking which player to support.

At the end of each programme Clive Anderson shows us the scoreboard and you see how your player has progressed. The eighth and final episode has a special twist in it, which we will have to wait to see!

**BRIDGE**

Although the bridge element is small, there are two bridge experts on hand: Glyn

Liggins and Andrew 'Tosh' McIntosh. They try to explain what went wrong on some hands and suggest what might have been better.

**INTERVIEWS**

In each episode, after the first one, there is an interview with one of the players. They talk about their interest in bridge: how it started and how it continues now. These work well helping us to get to know the players and making it feel as if we are able to sit alongside them and watch them enjoying their bridge.

**PRIZES**

It might appear light-hearted and fun, but there is no doubt a competitive edge that must surely come through because there is a £20,000 charity pot! £10,000 will go to the winner's chosen charity and £3,000 to second place. All the players get some amount to give to charity – this is an excellent idea – it also reminds us of bridge's role as a fund-raiser. So many events are run across the country for this purpose.

**CONCLUSION**

This is an excellent production, which I recommend you to watch, but more importantly get your non-playing friends to watch – I hope that *Celebrity Grand Slam Bridge* will encourage a new wave of bridge players to take up the game. If it is successful, the hope is that the production team will make more programmes. ■

**29. Game All. Dealer North.**

♠ K109	
♥ KJ732	
♦ J10	
♣ KJ8	
♠ 42	♠ AQJ3
♥ 10964	♥ Q85
♦ 953	♦ K64
♣ 10652	♣ AQ7
♠ 8765	
♥ A	
♦ AQ872	
♣ 943	

**30. Love All. Dealer East.**

♠ Q	
♥ A109873	
♦ A109	
♣ A86	
♠ 873	♠ AK109642
♥ 62	♥ Void
♦ 8765432	♦ KQJ
♣ Q	♣ KJ4
♠ J5	
♥ KQJ54	
♦ Void	
♣ 1097532	

**31. N/S Game. Dealer South.**

♠ 96	
♥ 109853	
♦ AKJ75	
♣ A	
♠ AJ8754	♠ KQ1032
♥ Void	♥ 7
♦ 3	♦ 942
♣ Q107642	♣ K953
♠ Void	
♥ AKQJ642	
♦ Q1086	
♣ J8	

**32. E/W Game. Dealer West.**

♠ 84	
♥ 743	
♦ 1082	
♣ 98632	
♠ AKQ9652	♠ J107
♥ 8	♥ AJ652
♦ A75	♦ 963
♣ 104	♣ QJ
♠ 3	
♥ KQ109	
♦ KQJ4	
♣ AK75	

Please do watch *Celebrity Grand Slam Bridge* starting Monday 20 April at 7pm on Sky Arts 2 and even more importantly, encourage your non bridge-playing friends to watch too.

How to find Sky Arts on your TV: [www.skyarts.co.uk/watch](http://www.skyarts.co.uk/watch)



# Historic Recollections

by Dick Atkinson

**M**y uncle, the seventh Baron von Münchhausen, is always ready with helpful advice for a less skilful adversary. Sadly, not all opponents accept his advice with good grace. This deal was a case in point, from a high-stakes rubber played about seventy years ago.

## Exclusive Bridge Circle

My uncle was invited to make up a four in a particularly exclusive circle, thanks to his well-known discretion, or so he told me. His partner was Mussolini. North was Stalin, and South Hitler, though that partnership broke up, oddly enough, shortly after this encounter.

Hitler dealt himself:

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

At favourable vulnerability, he chose the natural opening of 6♣, trusting partner to give him seven with the ace of trumps.

## Doubled Contract

My uncle, his left-hand opponent, doubled. Had the double come from the fourth hand, it would have signalled the ability to ruff some suit; but after the second-hand double Herr Hitler redoubled with considerable confidence. Presumably Uncle Leo held the two black aces, and would receive his just deserts when the opening lead was ruffed.

Sure enough, the ace of clubs was led, and dummy was revealed to be:

♠ Void  
♥ J 10 8 7 5 4  
♦ J 10 8 7 5 4  
♣ Q

The declarer ruffed and set about the trumps. Il Duce, however, discarded a small club on the very first round, and despite the most Arctic of glares, was unable to replace it with a trump.

## Forcing Game

In with the ace of spades, my uncle continued his forcing game, and the declarer ended up with just six tricks, only half his contract, for a swingeing penalty of 2200. ‘Piquant,’ remarked the Baron. ‘You are confident of making your slam, and yet it is I who make 1♠!’

This was the big picture:

♠ Void		♠ Void
♥ J 10 8 7 5 4		♥ 9 6 3 2
♦ J 10 8 7 5 4		♦ 9 6 3 2
♣ Q		♣ K 5 4 3 2
♠ A 6 5 4 3 2		
♥ Void	W	
♦ Void	N	
	E	
♣ A J 10 9 8 7 6	S	
		♠ K Q J 10 9 8 7
		♥ A K Q
		♦ A K Q
		♣ Void

Hitler seemed inclined to rail against his

ill luck, but my uncle felt there were important lessons to be learned.

## Helpful Advice Offered

‘Your bidding, like your play, was so reasonable at first sight, yet it turned out to be frankly impetuous. You have pre-empted your partner out of a solid slam in either red suit.’

It was all too true.

Struggling to save face among the ruins of their joint endeavour, Stalin announced: ‘Nevertheless, we would have lost much the same amount if you had overcalled with 7♣ – a contract you might well have reached had my partner not pre-empted so high.’

Such superficial analysis could not go unchallenged. With an indulgent laugh, the Baron replied: ‘Far be it from me to criticise your philosophical objection to kings and queens; but I fear you would be foolish in the extreme to allow that prejudice to extend to your choice of opening lead.’

The queen of clubs would indeed have limited my uncle to twelve tricks.

‘Of course, Herr Hitler is physically unable to lead a club, so that my partner could make 7♣ on any lead, by ruffing all my little spades before drawing trumps – provided that he does not attempt too many ruffs in the red suit you choose to discard. But then, he can hardly call it. It would, in any case, be rather a courageous bid.’

The Italian was cut to the quick, ►

This article was published in BRIDGE 41. Reprinted to satisfy popular demand.

## Historic Recollections continued

well knowing that this was an oblique allusion to his failure to leave in one of my uncle's more imaginative penalty doubles in the previous rubber.

### Courageous or Fatuous?

'Courageous? Fatuous! Why, such a stupid call might have tempted the Führer into offering his partner a second suit at the seven level, leading to a Grand Slam making their way! Indeed, your double itself gave him the opportunity to –'

'Benito, Benito . . . Am I the only person at this table capable of leading a club? Declarer would find it impossible to return to the long trump hand without promoting your nine of trumps.

'And, speaking of trumps,' he continued, 'so many declarers touch them too early. If Herr Hitler, for example, had trusted my double, he would have visualised the lie of the cards and tackled the side suits first. That would have saved 400 . . .'

## DOUBLE DUMMY PROBLEM



by Richard When

(Answer on page 31)

♠ K 10 9						
♥ Void						
♦ Void						
♣ A 3 2						
♠ J 4		♠ Q 6 5				
♥ Void	<table border="1" style="display: inline-table; vertical-align: middle;"> <tr><td>N</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td></tr> </table>	N	W	E	S	♥ Void
N						
W						
E						
S						
♦ Void		♦ 2				
♣ K Q J 10		♣ 9 8				
♠ A 8 7 2						
♥ Void						
♦ A						
♣ 4						

South, playing in a spade contract, needs to make all six remaining tricks, with North to lead. In view of the apparent trump loser, how is this possible?

## Two Handed Bridge



by George Hutter

There are a number of ways to play bridge with only two players. In each, the two players play at right angles to each other. Unless specified otherwise, the procedures relating to normal bridge apply as far as it is possible for them to do so, but it takes only one pass to end the auction.

### Double Dummy

Deal four hands, two of them face down. Players bid on what they can see in their own hands. After the auction, the dummy opposite each player is turned face up. Each player plays alternately from his own hand and from his dummy's.

For the players, the play is like normal bridge but there is no need to guess anything as both know the position of all 52 cards. The bidding, however, is more hit and miss than at normal bridge: your only clues to your partner's hand are the cards that you can see yourself and your opponent's bidding.

An alternative is to have the dummies not open to both players. Instead, after the bidding, each places his own dummy in such a position that he can see it but his opponent cannot. To do this, you could use the type of racks designed for players unable to hold their cards.

For declarer, the play with this variation is even more similar to normal bridge, except you know the defenders will find your weak points without giving each other any signals. For the non-declarer, the key difference is that the second hand you can see is your

partner's rather than the opposing dummy – it feels rather like being declarer, except you will often have an inadequate trump suit.

### Draw & Discard

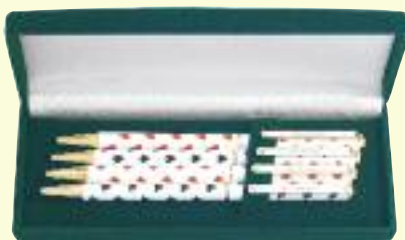
Shuffle the cards thoroughly and place them, face down, in a single pile. Starting with the non-shuffler, each in turn draws the top card from the pile, looks at it, and either (a) keeps it, ending his turn, or (b) discards it, face down, and draws the next, which he must then keep. As soon as a player has 13 cards, he stops drawing. When both have 13, they bid (last player to get 13 cards bids first) and play in normal bridge/whist fashion. The rejected cards have no part to play in the game.

A variation is that, if a player decides to keep the drawn card, he looks at the next card in the pile, which he must then discard. This way each player sees 26 cards during the drawing process.

In the drawing process, as well as trying to collect high cards, it can be wise to try to build up length in one suit. The more playing strength you have, the higher you can afford to bid and the more likely you are to make your contract. In the play, you can guess that the other player will have most of the high cards you have not seen. It can be a good tactic to lead your solid or weak suits, waiting for the other player to lead into your tenaces. In this and other versions of two-handed bridge in which the play takes place with 26 cards rather than 52, it can be quite hard to bid and make game on a single deal.

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