

December, 2022 ACBL *Bridge Bulletin* Notes

Jeff Kroll
Sam Khayatt

These are the articles that we believe will benefit our readers the most.

1. "The Bidding Box" moderated by Josh Donn, Problem 8 (p. 43). We like the *Bridge Bulletin* auction. We like the 5♦ opening as a two-way bid: it may make and it makes it difficult for the opponents to enter the auction. Partner then has an easy 6NT bid, expecting to lose only the ♥A.
2. "It's Your Call" by Sue Munday and Karen Walker (p.44-47).
 - a. Deal 3: The heart stop is enough for all the respondents to bid notrump. None show the killer diamond suit
 - b. Deal 4: Five respondents objected to the 1♣ opener with ♣A K J T 7 6; all of them would have bid 2NT.
 - c. Deal 5: It was a difficult choice between a takeout double of a 3♥ preempt with the doubleton ♠AK or 3NT with the doubleton ♥Q9.
3. "Card Play 101" by Phillip Alder (p. 48).
 - a. Deal 1: Realizing that all of partner's spades are good, forget your solid hearts and discard the ♠Q to let partner know his spades are running.
 - b. Deal 2: After leading a heart against 3NT, you realize hearts are not going to work, so discard a low heart. By discarding a heart, you are telling partner hearts won't run; he knows you are too good a player to discard a winner. The low heart discard is a suit-preference signal for clubs.
4. "Parrish the Thought: Trump leads" by Adam Parrish (p. 49). When declarer has shown two suits and dummy picks one, lead a trump to cut down on declarer's ruffs.
5. "Reasoning with Robert: Bidding opposite a passed hand – fourth-seat opening bids" by Robert S. Todd (p. 50)
 - a. Since spades are so important, you usually need 15+ HCP to open with a spade void.
 - b. Opposite a passed partner, major-suit openings can be made with a good four-card suit when you have no interest in game.
 - c. You can stretch a tad to open 1NT to block the opponents from entering the auction.
6. "Ask Jerry" by Jerry Helms (p. 55). Playing standard methods (not a short club) a 1♦ opener shows four or more diamonds 97.2% of the time.
7. "Chalk Talk" by Eddie Kantar (p 57). Identify the defender who is out of the opponents' long suit and finesse into that hand. This is sometimes called "cutting communication."
8. "Boehm on Bridge: Tenacious defense – part 3" by August Boehm (p. 60). A long suit in dummy that can be used for discards requires the defenders to take their tricks ASAP.
9. "Better Bridge with Bergen: Improve your bidding judgement – part 19" by Marty Bergen (p. 61). Queens and jacks are worth more in notrump than in a suit contract. They are slow tricks. Fast tricks (aces and AK combinations) are worth more in a suit contract.
10. "Test your Play by Eddie Kantar (p.63)
 - a. Deal 1: Set up the fifth heart.
 - b. Deal 2: Strip the hand, play a loser on a loser and end-play West.

Our Favorites

“Parrish the Thought: Trump leads” by Adam Parrish (p. 49)

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
1♠	Pass	1NT	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♠	All Pass

♠ AK743	♠ J5
♥ 87	♥ K6543
♦ K4	♦ A732
♣ A832	♣ 95

On this auction, West probably only has only two spades, as he bid 1NT instead of 2♠ on his first call. East probably has three or fewer clubs when she takes a preference to spades. East, who will be dummy, could easily have two or fewer clubs, so the defense should lead a trump to minimize the ruffs.

On a layout like the one shown, a spade lead stops declarer from ruffing at all.

“Chalk Talk” by Eddie Kantar (p 57)

		♠ J83	
		♥ A4	
		♦ J64	
		♣ AJ1083	
♠ K104			♠ 9652
♥ J10987	N		♥ Q52
♦ Q32	W	+	♦ K985
♣ 75	S	E	♣ K2
		♠ AQ7	
		♥ K63	
		♦ A107	
		♣ Q964	
<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
Pass	3NT	All Pass	1NT

West leads the ♥J. What is our plan?

We likely have two spades, two hearts, a diamond and four club tricks. However, securing these tricks might involve losing the lead several times. The defenders might be able to take five tricks in their suit before we take our nine.

Guarding against five hearts in West (West led them) we duck the first heart trick, reducing East to two hearts. We win the second heart trick (East is now down to a heart singleton) in dummy, and take the losing spade finesse into West. West continues with a third heart trick, which we win in our hand. East is now out of hearts. We take the losing club finesse into the East hand. Because East is out of hearts, he must return something we can win. We win the return and take the rest of our nine tricks.

Voiding one opponent of the pair’s long suit is often described as “cutting the communication” between the two hands.