

BRIDGE

Number One Hundred and Twenty-Nine

September 2013

Bernard Magee's Acol Bidding Quiz

You are West in the auctions below, playing 'Standard Acol' with a weak no-trump (12-14 points) and 4-card majors.

1. Dealer West. Love All.

♠ AKQJ8765
♥ 98
♦ J
♣ 32



| | | | |
|------|-------|------|-------|
| West | North | East | South |
| ? | | | |

2. Dealer South. Love All.

♠ 65
♥ KJ3
♦ AQ74
♣ A965



| | | | |
|------|-------|------|-------|
| West | North | East | South |
| | | | Pass |
| 1NT | Pass | 3♥ | Pass |
| ? | | | |

3. Dealer East. Love All.

♠ 76
♥ A842
♦ A653
♣ Q82



| | | | |
|------|-------|------|-------|
| West | North | East | South |
| | | 1♠ | Pass |
| ? | | | |

Answers on page 10

4. Dealer East. Love All.

♠ K765
♥ Q32
♦ K876
♣ 42



| | | | |
|------|-------|------|---------|
| West | North | East | South |
| | | | 1♠ Pass |
| ? | | | |

5. Dealer North. Love All.

♠ KQ74
♥ 3
♦ J108652
♣ K9



| | | | |
|------|-------|------|-------|
| West | North | East | South |
| | 1♥ | 1NT | Pass |
| ? | | | |

6. Dealer East. Game All

♠ J2
♥ 10765
♦ 875
♣ AKQ4



| | | | |
|------|-------|------|-------|
| West | North | East | South |
| | | 1♠ | 1NT |
| ? | | | |

Answers on page 16

7. Dealer North. Game All.

♠ 987
♥ 43
♦ J7652
♣ A43



| | | | |
|------|-------|------|-------|
| West | North | East | South |
| | 1NT | Dbl | Pass |
| ? | | | |

8. Dealer West. Love All.

♠ KQ987
♥ KQ2
♦ K4
♣ KQ6



| | | | |
|------|-------|------|-------|
| West | North | East | South |
| 1♠ | Pass | 4♠ | Pass |
| ? | | | |

9. Dealer East. Love All.

♠ AK876
♥ AJ108
♦ 7
♣ QJ3



| | | | |
|------|-------|------|-------|
| West | North | East | South |
| | | 3♦ | 3♥ |
| ? | | | |

Answers on page 18

10. Dealer West. Love All.

♠ KQ432
♥ KQ9
♦ A65
♣ J2



| | | | |
|------|-------|------|-------|
| West | North | East | South |
| 1♠ | Pass | 1NT | Pass |
| ? | | | |

11. Dealer East. Love All.

♠ 32
♥ 62
♦ J42
♣ KQ8732



| | | | |
|------|-------|------|-------|
| West | North | East | South |
| | | 1♥ | Pass |
| 1NT | Pass | 2NT | Pass |
| ? | | | |

12. Dealer North. Love All.

♠ A92
♥ A876
♦ AJ54
♣ 86



| | | | |
|------|-------|------|-------|
| West | North | East | South |
| | 1♠ | 1♥ | Pass |
| ? | | | |

Answers on page 22



BERNARD MAGEE

BOXED SETS OF SIX DVDS

Series 1

1 Ruffing for Extra Tricks

This seminar deals with declarer's use of ruffing to generate extra tricks and then looks at how the defenders might counteract this.

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This seminar helps declarer to use his high cards more carefully and then looks at how defenders should care for their precious high cards.

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Bernard explains how to make a plan then expands on how to make the most of your long suits. The first half deals with no-trumps, the second with suit contracts.

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This seminar deals with Transfers and Stayman in detail. The 1NT opening comes up frequently, so having a good, accurate system of responses is paramount.

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Going beyond just the point-count is important if you want to improve. Reaching 3NT on 24 HCP and making it; and avoiding 3NT on 26 HCP when there are only seven or eight tricks.

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The art of pre-empting is so important in the modern game. Understanding the right types of hand to bid up on and realising the importance of position and vulnerability.

15 Splinter & Cue-Bids

Take your slam bidding to another level. Splinter bids are a vital tool to have in your bidding armoury and try your hand at Italian style cue-bidding.

16 Avoidance

As declarer, an important tactic is to be in control of the defenders: avoiding a particular defender getting the lead. As a defender, you can try to make sure the right player gets the lead at the right time.

17 Pairs Play & Defence

Duplicate Pairs is the game most of us play and getting used to the tactics will make a lot of difference to your performance. Making more overtricks and making sure you do not give away tricks as a defender.

18 Thinking Defence

By far the hardest aspect of bridge, but if you can improve your defence your results will quickly improve. Learn how to think through the defence and get your mind in gear for the decisions that await you.

**Individual DVDs. £25 each.
Boxed Set of 6. £100.**



Make your cheque payable to Mr Bridge and send to: Mr Bridge, Ryden Grange, Knaphill, Surrey GU21 2TH



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BRIDGE

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Mr Bridge

**AT THE
ROYAL KENZ
TUNISIA**

**Two-week
half-board
duplicate
bridge holiday**



**3-17 November 2013
Tony and Jan Richards
£769***

**23 Feb – 9 March 2014
Bernard Magee
£799***

**30 March – 13 April 2014
Host to be advised
£899***

*per person half-board sharing a twin-bedded room and is inclusive of bridge fees. Single supplement £6 per night. These prices are based on air travel from Heathrow to Tunis. Flights from other UK airports are available at a supplement. Prices for seven-night stays are available on application.

Pay £70 per fortnight per person extra and have a pool-facing room, tea & coffee making facilities, bath robe and a bowl of seasonal fruit.

These holidays have been organised for Mr Bridge by Tunisia First Limited, ATOL 5933.

DETAILS&BOOKINGS

☎ 01483 489961

The views expressed in this publication are not necessarily those of the publisher.

JUST DUPLICATE BRIDGE

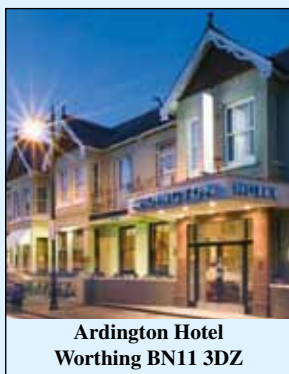
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27-29 September £199
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18-20 October £169
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27-29 June £169
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4-6 July £199
Denham Grove



Full Board – No Single Supplement
Booking Form on page 8.

Please note there are no seminars, set hands or prizes at these events.

SUBSCRIPTIONS



If like me, you enjoy being able to pick up and put down a magazine as and when, you will need to take up a subscription to **BRIDGE** as I am having to cut the circulation of free copies.

Advertisers and sponsors have reduced their contributions, so my life in bridge has really turned full circle and I find myself back at 'start'. Another new challenge to relish.

I hope that you will sign up for the journey. Believe me, you ain't seen nothing yet.

GOING FORWARD

Having advertised for new contributors and feature writers, I have lately appointed David Huggett as commissioning editor. If you have not yet heard from me, please ring ☎ 02380 631734 or email: davidhuggett@mrbridge.co.uk

I have a clear vision of what I want to include in **BRIDGE** to consolidate its growing success. That most readers love it, I am left in no doubt. However, some welcome a travel tip and some do not and if you are an experienced player, I suggest you give beginner's corner a miss when the new series starts as it is obviously not intended for you.

QPLUS

This month sees the World Computer-Bridge Championship in Bali, Indonesia. It should be a frenetic battle and ever-hopeful Johannes Leber will be there with QPlus.

His production model is like a robust saloon-car that has to compete with experimental models that will never be used on the public road. But, head up and shoulders back Hans and good luck QPlus.

Meanwhile, here are some more interesting hands:

| | |
|---------|---------|
| 4810-09 | 3390-04 |
| 9101-14 | 5031-01 |
| 3059-01 | 6755-13 |

Those readers who would like to buy QPlus now, should send £92 and receive the current version, QPlus 10. I promise to send you QPlus 11 as soon as it is ready. Both versions are self-contained products, so you will be able to give QPlus 10 to a friend once you receive your copy of QPlus 11.

If you are looking to upgrade from an earlier version of QPlus, just return the disc with its instruction booklet and a cheque for £43.

OTHER TRADE-INS

I have an offer for those wanting to change their tutorial software or QPlus. See back cover for details.

BRIDGE BARON

I stock the latest version of Bridge Baron, number 23, as it is the best AppleMac compatible Acrol playing program. £63. To trade-in an earlier version, send one in with a cheque for £25 and you will receive Bridge Baron 23 by return.

WEB PAGE FORUM

www.mrbridge.co.uk

Ned Paul answers questions quickly and succinctly on my behalf. Do use this helpful service.

2014 DIARIES

Next year's diaries are now in stock. All colours are available, see order form.

JUST DUPLICATE

£50 OFF

The £50 off offer, on all Just Duplicate Events, is repeated again for 2014, subject to availability, for a limited number of places.

This is primarily to ensure that an event actually takes place. The fun in a duplicate lies in the numbers. It is offered, as last year, below cost and payment is taken in full with the booking, by cheque or debit card. Offer closes 30 November 2013.

Secondly, it is for the promotion of duplicate bridge. Singles should come and try duplicate. It is less nerve-racking and embarrassing than at a local club, as you will make your inevitable faux-pas in the presence of total strangers. Likewise, new partnerships can come and experiment with the same degree of anonymity.

Ahead of publication of this offer, I have written to those already booked for any of these dates, to offer £50 off on the same terms.

KNOCKING KNEES

I was in my late forties when I took part in my first duplicate. It was fine until play was due to start. Then my knees began to knock and I could not control them until the sixth board. Luckily, I had been seated south, so I had no need to move. I had never before experienced such nervousness but soon felt confident enough to go to my first so-called 'no fear' congress, when it happened all over again. So, trust me, it is just a rite of passage. With one of my wonderful teams to support you, it is a great way for you to start your new life.

GOFFIES STAMPS



If you want to save on postage you should try Clive Goff's discounted stamp service.

Value supplied in two stamps, combined to make up the 50p 2nd class rate, 2nd class to you at 41p. 1st class 60p, only 50p to you. Available in lots of 100. ☎ 0208 422 4906.

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OCTOBER CRUISE



The 4 October sailing of Aegean Odyssey from Venice to Rome goes without us as Mrs Bridge happily is sufficiently recovered to be able to have her knee operation instead. Still some availability for this lovely voyage. Ring for details. ▶



BERNARD MAGEE
at
Denham Grove
near Uxbridge, Bucks, UB9 5DG.

10-13 January 2014

£299 full board
(Special early booking price)

Topics

SACRIFICING

An exciting aspect of the auction is outbidding your opponents and going down, but gaining by doing so. Learning to bid more aggressively and make the best of your cards will enhance both your scores and your enjoyment levels.

TRUMP CONTROL

Handling the play of the hand when trumps break badly is an important attribute: playing calmly and using a variety of tactics to pave the way to success.

WEAK TWOS

It is important to bid more in the modern game and weak twos are an important choice for the competitive player. They allow for pre-emptive and accurate bidding.

DEFENSIVE PLAN

Looking at your own hand, then at dummy and envisaging how partner's hand will allow you to make a plan for the defence. By having a framework to make your way across you will hopefully learn to identify various defensive situations and solve the problems you face.

FURTHER IN TO THE AUCTION

The first two bids of an auction are usually easy, but beyond that the complications increase. Learn about your various options and how to 'talk' to your partner during the bidding.

IMPROVING BRIDGE MEMORY

Remembering every card is a dream for most of us. However, learn ways in which to remember the important things. What was the first discard or how many trumps are left out?

6 seminar sessions with Bernard¹
6 sessions of supervised play²
Contact Mr Bridge to book your place
or for further details: ☎ 01483 489961

¹Filmed

²Not with Bernard Magee.

2014 FILMING

The next six films in the Better Bridge with Bernard Magee series are to be shot in the course of an event at Denham Grove in January. See advert for topics.

The course, which includes three nights full board, starts on Friday morning at 10.15am and ends with a lazy Monday breakfast.

Those coming a distance may wish to book for the Thursday overnight stay. £60 per person, dinner, bed and breakfast.

This is extra to the special early booking price of £299 per person. No single supplement. However, full payment must be made at the time of booking.

CHATSWORTH HOTEL PRIZE QUIZ

This problem has been sent in by Mike Gurney of Holt, Norfolk. The answer and the winner will be published in the December issue. Entries should be sent in before 30.09.2013. The prize is a room for one or two at any of my weekend events at the Chatsworth Hotel, in 2014.

You are West playing standard Acol and vulnerable.

♠ 8 7 5 3
♥ 2
♦ 9 5 4 2
♣ 8 4 3 2

| | |
|-------------|-------------|
| West | East |
| | 2♣ |
| 2♦ | 2♥ |
| 2NT | 3♣ |
| ? | |

Having given two 'negatives' what should West bid now?

FESTIVE BERNARD

We are filling up for the festive season earlier than usual this year. As a result, we have decided to put on a Twixmas 2-night event and to use a location in the north west of England.

Inn on the Prom, Lytham
27-29 December 2013
Signals and Discards
Bernard Magee £245

FESTIVE ME

I am looking forward to saying hello to everyone at the New Year's Eve Gala Dinner at Denham Grove. I hope to stay on for a game of bridge as I did last year. The late breakfast was a splendid treat.

TO CLEAR



Twin packs of my lovely premium quality playing cards, in a tasteful gold-coloured drop-lid box, have been reduced to two for £12 and that includes the p&p.

SO SORRY

Several of the adverts in this issue have coupons. If you do not wish to deface your magazine, ring my office and I will fill in and post your coupon for you.

All good wishes

Mr Bridge

STOP PRESS

I am hoping to promote bridge parties for one or two weeks in Croatia. Please register your interest if you would like further details.

Mr Bridge MAIL ORDER

PLAY SOFTWARE

QPlus 10 / QPlus 11
when ready £92.00

QPlus 10
Trade-in £43.00

Bridge Baron £63.00

Bridge Baron
Trade-in £25.00

TUTORIAL SOFTWARE

Begin Bridge
Acol Version £66.00

Acol Bidding £66.00

Advanced
Acol Bidding £96.00

Declarer Play £76.00

Advanced
Declarer Play £81.00

Defence £76.00

Five-Card Majors
with Strong
No-Trump £89.00

Better Bridge with
Bernard Magee
Haslemere 2011 £69.00

Bundleware Offer
Any two CDs £140.00

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Life's a Game, but
Bridge is Serious £7.00

The Pot Boiler. A Double
Dummy Problem £7.00

10 Commandments for
Bridge Players £7.00

TEA TOWELS

10 Commandments for
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Bridge Players £7.00

Back In Our Day £7.00

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Competitive Auctions

Making the
Most of High Cards

Identifying &
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Play & Defence of
1NT Contracts

Doubling & Defence
to Doubled Contracts

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as a boxed set £100.00

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Losing Trick Count

Making a Plan as Declarer

Responding to 1NT

Signals & Discards

Endplays

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as a boxed set £100.00

MR BRIDGE TIE

£15.00

BOOKS

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Simplified £5.95

Better Hand
Evaluation £14.00

Tips for
Better Bridge £14.00

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Tan £6.95

Black £6.95

Ivory £6.95

Green £6.95

Burgundy £6.95

Cambridge Blue £6.95

Club Prices 10 for £35
and pro rata

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& ball-point pen:**

Ruby Red £14.95

Navy Blue £14.95

Bottle Green £14.95

Club Prices 10 for £90
and pro rata

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24 Months £35.00

36 Months £50.00

Prices are inclusive of VAT and postage to UK mainland.

I enclose a cheque for £.....

Mr/Mrs/Miss

Address

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



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If you have not contacted us recently, please enter your details in the box below to re-register:

Name (Mr, Mrs, Miss)

Address

Postcode

Telephone

E-mail

Please send BRIDGE to the following enthusiasts:

Name (Mr, Mrs, Miss)

Address

Postcode

Telephone

E-mail

Name (Mr, Mrs, Miss)

Address

Postcode

Telephone

E-mail

Please complete all or part of this form and return to: Mr Bridge, Ryden Grange, Knaphill, Surrey, GU21 2TH.



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- ◆ Full-board
- ◆ All rooms with en-suite facilities
- ◆ No single supplement
- ◆ Two seminars*
- ◆ Two supervised play sessions*
- ◆ Four bridge sessions**

Please book places for me at £..... per person,

Single Double Twin

Name of Hotel/Centre.....

Date(s)

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 for the balance 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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(CVV is the last 3 numbers on the signature strip)

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

☎ 01483 489961

e-mail: jessica@mrbridge.co.uk

website: www.holidaybridge.com



*on tutorial weekends only. **6 sessions on rubber/Chicago events.

Please note: Just Bridge events contain no seminars and do not award prizes.

BRIDGE EVENTS with Bernard Magee



Chatsworth Hotel
Worthing BN11 3DU

NOVEMBER continued

15-17 Chatsworth Hotel
£245 Bidding Distributional Hands

22-24 Blunsdon House Hotel
£245 Better Defence

OCTOBER 2013

11-13 Blunsdon House Hotel
£245 Splinters and Cue Bids

18-20 Chatsworth Hotel
£245 Playing & Defending 1NT

25-27 Queensferry Hotel
£245 Finding Slams

JANUARY 2014

10-13 Denham Grove 
£299 Filming Weekend



Queensferry Hotel
North Queensferry KY11 1HP

NOVEMBER 2013

8-10 Olde Barn Hotel
£245 Better Leads & Switches

17-19 Chatsworth Hotel
£245 Better Leads & Switches



Blunsdon House Hotel
Blunsdon, Swindon SN26 7AS

MARCH 2014

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The Diaries of Wendy Wensum

Episode 17: A Sicilian Jaunt

Part 1: Only the Volcano Roared

The success of the holiday in Rhodes in the company of Spouse, Millie and Justin led to the four of us convening at Norwich International Airport for our afternoon flight to Catania in Sicily for a week of bridge and sight-seeing. After boarding the plane, there was a delay due to a sudden downpour of rain which flooded the runway. Millie's suggestion to the stewardess that each passenger be issued with a sponge to mop up the water was not well received. As a result, service in our part of the plane was minimal so that when we finally touched down in Sicily, Millie was surprisingly sober. As twilight turned to dusk, the coach bearing us to our destination near Cefalu on the northern coast passed a fiery Mount Etna. Its vividly glowing volcanic plume spouted dramatically upwards in the fading light.

From the front of the coach in the increasing darkness the travel rep droned on detailing finer points concerning legends from Roman and Greek mythologies. In the inevitable intellectual section of the coach, an earnest debate ensued on the implications of these similarities and differences in a post-modernist world. Fortunately by this time the loud speaker in our part of the coach had stopped working. I happened to mention this to Spouse. 'That's odd; it was OK earlier,' he noted. 'Well it isn't now,' confirmed Millie with a steely glint in her eyes. 'Has Millie sabotaged it?' I inquired of Justin, suspicious of a loose wire dangling from the luggage rack. Grinning like a Cheshire cat, he shrugged his shoulders. 'It can be plugged back later,' he informed me. 'No problem,' I mouthed, and slept peacefully for the rest of the journey.

The hotel had laid on a splendid supper for us on our late arrival. We enjoyed the excellent meal with a bottle of local wine supplemented at its

conclusion with additional brandies at Millie's insistence.

In the fine sunshine on the following morning we breakfasted on the terrace overlooking the swimming pool and surrounding palm trees. Afterwards we explored the grounds with their formal gardens and sporting and leisure facilities where Justin and Spouse spontaneously decided to play tennis. Millie and I thought a massage in the hotel spa was a better option and left the men to their game. By the afternoon we were ready for our first session of bridge. As we entered the lounge, Millie staring about her observed, 'Gosh, it is dark in here.' 'Try taking off your sun glasses,' I suggested sympathetically. The competition was duplicate pairs, and it emerged later that both our pairings achieved good results on this board proving that ordinary part-score hands can be important. Both sides were vulnerable with North as dealer. Our opponents were the married couple who had played tennis against Justin and Spouse earlier in the day. Apparently Amos, although in his eighties, was still very agile on the doubles court. Would he be so active at the table?

| | | |
|---|--|---|
| <p>♠ 9 7 2 ♥ Q 10 ♦ A 8 5 ♣ K 8 7 5 4</p> <p>♠ 10 8 6 ♥ 6 5 4 3 2 ♦ J 3 2 ♣ 10 3</p> <p>♠ A 5 ♥ J 8 ♦ K Q 7 6 4 ♣ Q 9 6 2</p> | | <p>♠ K Q J 4 3 ♥ A K 9 7 ♦ 10 9 ♣ A J</p> |
|---|--|---|

Spouse passed as North and Amos opened the bidding with an artificial

Precision-style strong bid of one club:

| West Mary | North Spouse | East Amos | South Wendy |
|--------------|-----------------|--------------|----------------|
| | Pass | 1♣ (16+) | 1♦ |
| Pass | 2♦ | 2♠ | 3♦ |
| All Pass | | | |

I won the spade lead with the ace and removed trumps. Fortunately the clubs were 2-2 so I lost one spade trick, two hearts and a club. The contract of three diamonds made exactly for a near top our way. As Amos left the table and headed energetically for a refill at the bar, I remarked to Mary that he was very spritely for his age. She agreed, adding that he had become hyperactive since being accidentally struck by a police Taser at a senior citizens' rally protesting against police brutality. I assumed she was joking, but I'm still not sure.

When Millie and Justin played the same board as East/West they were involved in this sequence:

| West Justin | North Pass | East Millie | South 2♦ |
|----------------|---------------|----------------|-------------|
| Pass | 3♦ | 3♥ | All Pass |

Luckily for Millie the trumps came down in two rounds. She lost the first two diamond tricks, and later a club and a spade to make the contact for a good score the other way. We were all very pleased with the results from that board, but neither of our partnerships performed particularly well and we finished towards the bottom of the field. We knew we had to improve and a chilled bottle of the popular local rosé was ordered to get us in the right frame of mind for the contests ahead. To ensure we were all on message Millie ordered another round, this time gin and tonics. With a second session of bridge looming, I wasn't sure these tactics were a winning option. ■



Answers to Bernard Magee's Bidding Quizzes 1-3 on the Cover

1. Dealer West. Love All.

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



| | | | |
|-------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|
| West | North | East | South |
| ? | | | |

4♣. You have eight playing tricks, but you do not have a strong hand – do not consider a strong two-level opening. When you have a long suit, you should evaluate your hand's strength against an opponent's contract and then decide whether to open pre-emptively or strongly.

Imagine you were defending against **4♥**: how many tricks would you expect to make?

One, if you are lucky and nobody is void in spades.

Compare one trick with eight certain tricks in spades and the point should be clear. Whenever the difference between your declaring potential and your defensive potential is very large, then you should consider pre-empting.

With a solid eight-card suit, you must open **4♣** because you have too much trick taking power to open just **3♣**. You will go one off in **4♣**, but that is a lot better than allowing the opponents to make eleven tricks in hearts.

2. Dealer South. Love All

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



| | | | |
|-------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|
| West | North | East | South |
| 1NT | Pass | 3♥ | Pass |
| ? | | | |

4♣. A direct response of **3♥** to 1NT

shows a strong hand with at least five hearts (playing transfers the bid would promise six hearts). It gives partner three choices: 3NT, **4♥** or make a slam try if you fit well for hearts.

This last option is very important – you must assess your hand – if you like hearts and have plenty of high cards, then you should encourage partner to look for a slam.

The 3NT response says, I do not like hearts; **4♥** says, I like hearts but I have nothing special. Any other response should be a cuebid agreeing hearts as trumps.

Here, you have good heart support and hold three key-cards (2 aces and the king of trumps) so you must express your excitement by bidding **4♣**. This shows heart support and club control.

Your slam try is enough to encourage East and he bids key-card Blackwood. Your **5♠** response allows him to settle for **6♥**.

If you simply respond **4♥**, East will pass – his hand's potential depends on how it fits with yours. So it is up to you to show your excitement.

3. Dealer East. Love All.

| | |
|-----------|-----------|
| ♠ 7 6 | ♠ K Q 8 5 |
| ♥ A 8 4 2 | ♥ 9 7 |
| ♦ A 6 5 3 | ♦ K Q J 8 |
| ♣ Q 8 2 | ♣ A 7 4 |



| | | | |
|-------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|
| West | North | East | South |
| ? | | 1♠ | Pass |

1NT. You have a bare 10 points with each of the high cards isolated and a small doubleton in your partner's suit, so the hands are not fitting particularly well.

You have three choices: 1NT, **2♦** or 2NT?

2♥ is not an option for it promises five cards. A direct 2NT response is out of vogue because it takes up too much

room. Your long suits are so poor, you do best to downgrade the hand and bid 1NT.

Evaluating the hand as 9 points is about right.

Your partner has 15 HCP and will pass your response. You have 25 points between you, but your bare hand will not bear fruit in the play. On most days, you will make seven or eight tricks. To make nine tricks, you will need two finesses to work and the opponents unable to make three heart tricks: perhaps a 10% chance.

Bidding is not always just a case of counting points, it can be looking beyond that and evaluating your hand fully. Intermediate cards (tens and nines) and the way your cards work together, make a lot of difference. When honours are by themselves, they are weakened and when long suits have just one high card, they have less potential.

Finishing in 1NT with these hands will usually get you a great score, whilst most are going one or two off in 3NT. ■

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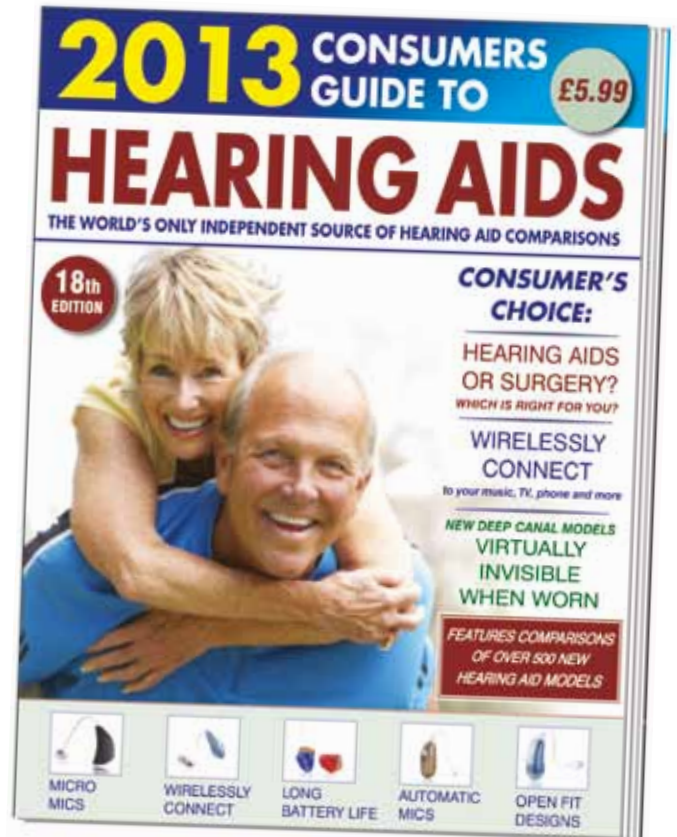
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Revoke Penalty Too Harsh?

Q We had an unusual incident on this hand:

Dealer North. Love All.

♠ A 6 5
♥ A K 9 2
♦ 3 2
♣ Q 8 6 2

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

♠ K Q J 8 4 3
♥ J 8
♦ 7
♣ K 10 9 3

| West | North | East | South |
|------|-------|------|-------|
| | 1 NT | Pass | 2♥ |
| 3♦ | 3♠ | 4♦ | 4♠ |
| 5♦ | Dbl | End | |

North led the ♥K, ♥A, then ♥2, South played the ♥J then the ♠3, which became an established revoke. He played the ♥8 on the ♥2, West's ♥Q winning the trick. The director was called and said, 'I will come back at the end of play.' At the end E/W were two off. They asked for two tricks. I said that there should be no penalty, but the director ruled one trick to be transferred, mak-

ing the contract now one off. The revoke did N/S a huge disservice. Should they have been further penalised?

Tony Cowling, Berkshire.

A Of course. The absolute basic rule of bridge is you have to follow suit, so it is very reasonable that there should be penalties. Players who revoke should expect to suffer. If their side wins either the revoke trick or a subsequent one, then they will lose at least one trick.



Q At a recent club session, the following situation arose: after one trick, my partner, West, led a heart and my RHO showed out, discarding a spade. After the way the bidding had gone, I thought this was odd, so I said, 'Having none?' whereupon RHO said, 'Oh, a heart lead was it?' and promptly produced a heart from his hand (in fact he had two or three). My question is, could I have kept quiet and let him revoke – my side would have had a

much better result if I had or would that be deemed to be unethical?

Dennis Law, Nailsworth, Glos.

A It is perfectly legal to let an opponent revoke and to take advantage. It is also ethical, insofar as the laws permit you to take such advantage as you can of opponents' infractions.

However, having said that, many players would not do so. There is an approach I call 'personal ethics', which is also known as 'active ethics', which is ethics beyond that which the laws require. So it is reasonable, if your own personal ethics require you, to point out the revoke before it is established.

But be warned. Other people's personal ethics may be different from yours and if you would always point out such a revoke, you should realise that not everyone else will.



Q My friend was directing at her local bridge club when a member used the stop card, but failed to make a jump bid. The

opponents called the director and insisted that the offending player should make a jump bid.

The director ruled that no offence had been committed and to continue play. I can find no reference to this in the yellow book of rules. What is the official ruling on this?

George Nicoll, Woodhall Spa, Lincs.

A Any call may be changed if it has not been made and a call is made once the bid itself is taken out of the bidding box. So a stop card without a bid may be withdrawn and opponents do not have the right to insist that a jump bid is made.

Often it is obvious why the player took the stop card out. This is unauthorised information to her partner, who must take no advantage, but the opponents may use the information if they wish. ▶

David Stevenson answers all queries based on the facts supplied by the letter writer.

Neither Mr Bridge nor David Stevenson has any way of knowing whether those facts are correct or complete.

Q A defender to a no-trump contract made an unexpected switch to a low club when everyone else expected him to return a spade. Next to play was declarer, who revoked by playing ♠A. The next player also revoked, playing a low spade, at which point the defender on lead asked, 'having none?'

Since the revokes were not established, declarer withdrew the ♠A and returned it to his hand substituting a club without penalty. The second defender also corrected his revoke, as did dummy who had played the only spade in his hand, without being instructed to do so by declarer.

A director was unavailable, so we would appreciate answers to these two questions:

1. Can the defender's query re a possible revoke apply equally to declarer even though it was not made until after his partner had played?

2. Can the leader's partner avoid the normal penalty for his revoke (the card played becoming a major penalty card) by invoking Law 62 which might allow him to withdraw the card he had played without penalty after declarer's earlier revoke?

Chris Pickup, Lostock, Bolton.

A Declarer is required to correct a revoke if he becomes aware of it before it is established. How he becomes aware of

it is irrelevant. So once the defender asked the question, if this woke declarer up then he must correct his revoke.

Your second question is very interesting and not one that had occurred to me. The laws are very poor on handling multiple infractions: they tend to ignore the possibility. Many people think it unfair that the defenders have a major penalty card and declarer has no penalty, though this is because declarer has no partner to worry about.

While the laws do not cover the situation properly one way or another, I like the suggested solution which seems equitable. Of course, Law 62C1 refers to a 'non-offending side', but the defenders were non-offending in respect of declarer's revoke. So in such a situation there are no penalty cards.



Q I belong to a duplicate bridge club with a total of 50 members. It is a very friendly club with good atmosphere and arguments are few. I always elect to play North with my regular partner and always try to keep the boards in the middle of the table, as I was taught many years ago. Some players object and move them either to the edge of the table or even on to the floor. Sometimes, particularly if I or my partner is declarer, we ask that the boards be left in the middle of the table. We accommodate players who have poor eyesight and try not to make a big 'thing' about it.

Recently, a new

member of the club and his partner have objected strongly to keeping boards in the middle of the table and it creates a most unpleasant atmosphere when arriving at our table. He does not accept that it is the correct position and wants to bring a different ruling at the next AGM. Our director is very easy going and I can imagine it might prove unpopular with members if a definite ruling is made. I don't want to be the one to ruin the atmosphere in our club and I am beginning to wonder whether I am right or not, or have I misinterpreted Rule 7A in the yellow book?

Personally, I do find it very awkward when boards are moved and as North I get concerned when cards are sometimes returned incorrectly to the board. Should I just give way for the sake of peace and quiet?

Janet Jackson by email.

A The law is simple. The board must always remain in the middle of the table. In practice, many clubs have small tables, and some people have poor eyesight, so boards often do get moved. While this is generally accepted, it is

not acceptable to take the board off the table: it is not acceptable to twist the board.

I think it is time you wrote to the club committee and pointed out that the newcomers are seriously upsetting you with their attitude. What they want is illegal, unnecessary and it seems unreasonable for newcomers to upset existing members. You are not the one to upset the atmosphere. The newcomers have already done that.



Q I score bridge sessions and the results go on the club website the following day. Someone has challenged my scoring a week later. What is a reasonable time after which nobody can question the published results?

Cilla Barnes, Dorking.

A The law book says half-an-hour after publication of the results unless the organisers decide otherwise. However, half-an-hour is unreasonable with results published on the internet. In fact, I think it unreasonable for any results from clubs with players going home and so forth. I have always advised clubs that results should become final only at the start of the session one week later. ▶

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Q We play in a league in which we have one player who asks on first lead, 'Why did you play that?' and on first discard, 'Why did you discard that?'

We have told him our carding system and I know that questions can be asked of partner when the cards are being played about systems, but is he allowed to ask this?
Name and Address Supplied.

A He has no right whatever to ask a player why they played a card or why they discarded a card. I suggest you agree with your partner that in future you always answer such a question with, 'Because I felt like it.'

He does have the right to know what leads and discards you play, so the partner of the player who led or discarded can tell him your basic leads or discards.



Q My question is not about bridge laws but perhaps you could help me. I am bridge director at a non-EBU affiliated, friendly duplicate bridge club of modest standard. We usually have 10 to 12 tables and play a Mitchell movement of 10 rounds with 2 or 3 boards per table with full tables, or a Howell movement with a half table and fewer than 9 tables, to avoid a 3 board sit-out.

On rare occasions,

due to medical or other emergencies, a player has to leave halfway through a session. There is no problem with full tables but, if we have started with a half table, we now have two half tables. It seems that something should be done but, try as I might, any way of trying to match the two half tables results in cries of, 'we have played these boards before,' and a spoiled movement.

Is there any solution to this problem?

John Buckley by email.

A No, not really. Players just have to sit out. It is normally very rare. If the reason is medical, fair enough, but other reasons for pairs leaving should be actively discouraged.



Q For as long as I can remember, our club has played 24 boards per evening.

Last night, as some tables were packing up and preparing to go after 24 boards, the director (a very new TD) announced that we would be playing another round of two boards.

No doubt, the scores on this last, unexpected round were unusual. Many players were tired as well as surprised, and some decided to 'Pass', despite having biddable hands.

Does the director have a duty to warn players early on about the number of boards to be played?

Does the addition of an unexpected and largely unwanted round invalidate the scores for the evening?

Gavin Wilson by email.

A The scores stand. The director has made a mess of it, certainly, but that does not invalidate the scores. Someone needs to explain two things to the director.

First, part of his job is to keep the customers informed. If he is playing 26 boards, especially if players might expect only 24 boards, then he needs to tell them so at the start of the evening.

Second, custom & practice govern a lot of what goes on in a club. So to change it needs a pretty good reason. Of course, if the majority want a change or if the club committee require a change, then that is good enough.



Q Playing against experts, my partner opened 2♦. I alerted and when queried replied, 'three-way multi.' An explanation was not requested. I bid 2♠, showing willingness to play in 3♥ and my partner responded 3♥. My RHO now wanted to know which of the three options this showed. Obviously, I knew my partner had a weak two in hearts. Do I say, 'Weak two in hearts,' and risk the remote possibility of getting it wrong or just explain the three options?

Phil Hickman by email.

A The opponents have a right to know how you play each call. So if they ask about the 2♦ bid, you explain it might be one of three things. But if they ask about the 3♥ bid you tell them what 3♥ shows, ie hearts, weak. There is no other possibility now. If your partner has something else, he has misbid.



Q I have yet to find either in the Laws or White Book an explicit statement that bids should remain on the table until a lead is faced. By implication, the laws and White Book refer to the 'Clarification Period' during which questions concerning the bidding may be raised and one might assume this would take place with the bids on the table – is there any definitive statement to this effect?

Roger Grimsdick by email.

A In the EBU White book, paragraph 1.6.2 reads, 'At the end of the auction the calls should remain in place until the opening lead has been faced and all explanations have been obtained, after which they should be returned to their boxes. If the hand is passed out then the passes are immediately returned to their boxes.'

So that is the basis in England and similar regulations apply throughout the British Isles. It is a matter of regulation, however, so does not appear in the law book and is often not the case in other countries. ■

E-mail your questions on bridge laws to:
davidstevenson@mrbridge.co.uk

DECLARER PLAY QUIZ



by **David Huggett**

(Answers on page 27)

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

1. ♠ Q 10 9 3
♥ 8 6 4
♦ K 6
♣ A Q 7 4

♠ A J 8 7 2
♥ A K 3
♦ Q J 5
♣ 9 2

3. ♠ A 8 6 5 3
♥ J 6
♦ K Q 10
♣ 8 6 5

♠ J
♥ Q 8
♦ A J 9 8 6 4 3
♣ A K 2

You are declarer in 4♠ and West leads the ♥2. East follows with the ♥J. How do you plan the play?

You are declarer in 5♦ after West dealt and opened 3♥. West leads the top two hearts with East playing hi-lo and switches to the ♣J. How do you plan the play?

2. ♠ 7 4
♥ A 9 6 5
♦ K 6 3 2
♣ K 5 4

♠ K J 5
♥ K 4 3
♦ A 9
♣ A J 9 6 3

4. ♠ 6 5
♥ Q J 6
♦ A Q 7 4 3
♣ A J 5

♠ K 9
♥ A K 9 3
♦ K 6 2
♣ K Q 10 9

You are declarer in 3NT and West leads the ♠6. East plays the ♠10. How do you plan the play?

You are declarer in 6NT after West has overcalled the opening 1♥ bid with 1♠. West leads the ♦J and East follows with the ♦5. How do you plan the play?

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Answers to Bernard Magee's Bidding Quizzes 4-6 on the Cover

4. Dealer East. Love All.

| | | |
|-----------|--|-------------|
| ♠ K 7 6 5 | | ♠ A Q 9 8 2 |
| ♥ Q 3 2 | | ♥ 6 5 4 |
| ♦ K 8 7 6 | | ♦ A 5 |
| ♣ 4 2 | | ♣ K Q 9 |

| | | | |
|-------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|
| West | North | East | South |
| ? | | 1♠ | Pass |

2♠. Using the point count this answer is simple: 6-9 points respond 2♠. However, some of you using the losing trick count might not have evaluated fully. There are downgrades for this hand, that are very important.

First of all, queens by themselves count half, so there are 2½ losers in the heart suit. Furthermore, you have an aceless hand which should also cause you to downgrade by adding half a loser.

This means that your full evaluation should be nine losers and hence you too should respond 2♠.

The losing trick count assumes a spread of high cards, so if you have all the aces, you upgrade and if you are aceless, you downgrade.

5. Dealer North. Love All

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

| | | | |
|-------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|
| West | North | East | South |
| ? | 1♥ | 1NT | Pass |

2♣. Your partner has made a 1NT overcall which should show a strong hand: the equivalent of a strong no-trump with a good heart holding. You have 9 HCP and a six-card suit, so you should certainly see the potential for a game contract. When responding to a

1NT bid of any strength when your side has not yet shown any suits, it is important to have a system available. For the same reason that you need conventions over an opening 1NT, you also need them in response to a 1NT overcall. You would love to know if you have a fit in spades, but you cannot bid spades yourself because you would be showing five or more. Therefore, you bring out the Stayman convention: 2♣.

Whenever you are playing in a partnership, you should assume that you play the same set of conventions in response to both an opening 1NT and this 1NT overcall. So if you play Stayman and transfers, that would be in place here.

Your partner bids 2♣ in response to Stayman and you can raise to game.

6. Dealer East. Game All.

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

| | | | |
|-------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|
| West | North | East | South |
| ? | | 1♠ | 1NT |

Double. Your partner opens 1♠ and South overcalls 1NT showing a strong no-trump (15-18 points). Once no-trumps have been bid, doubles change their meaning: from take-out to penalties. Whenever your side has the majority of points and your opponents bid no-trumps, you should consider doubling for penalties.

Here you have 10 HCP and your partner has opened, so you should double and expect to get a good score. You lead the ♣A and when partner plays the ♣2 (low for NO) you switch to ♠J. You establish seven tricks quickly and might make one or two more in spades depending on the break in the suit.

South has probably been a little un-

lucky here and found his partner with just one or two points. Or perhaps, as I have seen so many times, South has made a mistake and overcalled with 12-14 points. If that is the case, then you should offer him his just deserts.

The reason you need a stronger hand to make a 1NT overcall is because the next player is in a good position to know whether to double or not. If he calculates his side are the major point holders, then double should be the call. ■

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