

BRIDGE

Number One Hundred and Thirty-One

November 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.

♠ 9 8 7 6 5
♥ A K 5 4
♦ A J
♣ 8 3



West	North	East	South
?			

2. Dealer West. Love All.

♠ 4 3 2
♥ A 7
♦ K Q 4 2
♣ A J 6 2



West	North	East	South
1NT	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♦	Pass	2♣	Pass
?			

3. Dealer East. Love All.

♠ 4 2
♥ A K 7 6
♦ A K 7 6
♣ A 4 3



West	North	East	South
?		1♣	Pass

Answers on page 11

4. Dealer East. Love All.

♠ K Q 6 5
♥ K Q 6 2
♦ 7 6 5
♣ 4 3



West	North	East	South
?		1♠	Pass

5. Dealer West. Love All.

♠ A K 7 5 4
♥ A K 4 2
♦ Q 7 3
♣ 2



West	North	East	South
1♠	2♣	Pass	Pass
?			

6. Dealer West. Game All.

♠ 2
♥ K Q 9 3 2
♦ A 2
♣ A 9 8 6 5



West	North	East	South
1♥	Pass	2♥	Pass
?			

Answers on page 15

7. Dealer West. Love All.

♠ 2
♥ A Q J 5 4 3 2
♦ J 8 7 6
♣ 5



West	North	East	South
3♥	3♣	Dbl	Pass
?			

8. Dealer East. Game All.

♠ A 8 7 6 5
♥ 7 2
♦ Q 8 3
♣ 9 7 6



West	North	East	South
1♠	Pass	1♥	Pass
?		2♦	Pass

9. Dealer West. Love All.

♠ A K 8 5 4
♥ A 9 3 2
♦ A 7 6
♣ 2



West	North	East	South
1♠	Pass	1NT	Pass
2♥	Pass	3♣	Pass
?			

Answers on page 19

10. Dealer North. E/W Game.

♠ 4 2
♥ K Q 8 6 5
♦ K Q 3
♣ 9 7 6



West	North	East	South
?	1♣	1♣	Pass

11. Dealer West. Love All.

♠ A K 8 7 6
♥ A K
♦ A K 5
♣ Q J 3



West	North	East	South
2♣	2♥	Pass	Pass
?			

12. Dealer East. E/W Game.

♠ A K 8 4 2
♥ 4 2
♦ 7 5
♣ A K 4 3



West	North	East	South
1♠	Pass	1♦	Pass
?		2♣	Pass

Answers on page 23



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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3 Making the Most of High Cards

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

4 Identifying & Bidding Slams

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**Individual DVDs. £25 each.
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A method of hand evaluation for when you find a fit. Bernard deals with the basics of the losing trick count then looks at advanced methods to hone your bidding.

9 Making a Plan as Declarer

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.

10 Responding to 1NT

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.

11 Signals & Discards

This seminar deals with Count, Attitude and Suit-preference signals: aiming to get you working as a partnership in defence.

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Bernard takes you through the basics of the technique before showing some magical hands where you take extra tricks from defenders. In the second half, Bernard looks at how to avoid being endplayed as a defender.

**Individual DVDs. £25 each.
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Series 3

13 Hand Evaluation

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.

14 Pre-Emptying

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



01483 489961 www.mrbridge.co.uk/mrbridge-shop



BRIDGE

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Filming Event**

Mr Bridge

**AT THE
ROYAL KENZ
TUNISIA**

**Half-board
Duplicate Bridge
Holidays**



3-17 November 2013
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£769*

23 Feb – 9 March 2014
Bernard Magee
£799*

30 March – 13 April 2014
Crombie & Helen McNeil
£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 garden-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

JUST DUPLICATE BRIDGE

1-3 November £169
The Olde Barn

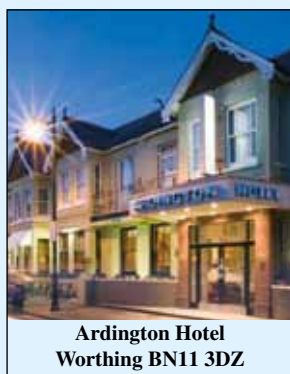
8-10 November £199
Elstead Hotel

15-17 November £199
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22-24 November £199
Ardington Hotel

22-24 November £199
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22-24 November £169
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14-16 February £199
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18-20 July £199
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12-14 September £169
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Blundson House Hotel

10-12 October £199
Elstead Hotel

17-19 October £169
The Olde Barn

24-26 October £199
Chatsworth Hotel



Full Board – No Single Supplement

Booking Form on page 8.

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

SUBSCRIPTIONS



I will continue to send printed copies of BRIDGE from time to time, as and when sponsorship permits. This may well be sufficient for you.

However, to ensure continuity, you will need to take up a sub. Indeed, it is my hope that you will do so and possibly even buy one for a friend as a Christmas present at the special introductory rate of £20 per year which almost covers the cost the postage and distribution.

COMING SOON

Last month's new series, *Things you should know about...* has been well received. Andrew Kambites began by telling us all about Stayman and provided a quiz to test how well we had grasped the subject. This month's topic is Red Suit Transfers and follows the same format as it will for Weak Twos next month.

At the risk of repeating myself, in January new writers will join our regulars, David Stevenson, Julian Pottage, Bernard Magee, Sally Brock and Wendy Wensum. Marguerite Lihou rejoins the team as cartoonist alongside David Bird, who will tell us the bridge-playing exploits of Robin Hood and his Merry Men.

PROMOTION OFFER

In my enthusiasm for this particular new series, I have reprinted two of David Bird's Robin Hood books, listed on page 4. If you would like either or both of these books, please send 4 2nd class stamps per book or add £2 per book if you are taking up a monthly subscription, as I hope you will. This offer may also be found in my on-line shop. www.mrbridge.co.uk

SEPTEMBER PRIZE

The Chatsworth Hotel quiz prize has been won by Mr G Makeham of Lewes.

LETTER SHORTAGE

There has been a drop off in the number of letters. I put this down to the wonderful summer. Now Autumn has overtaken us, let's be hearing from you.

CHRISTMAS CRUISE



This year's Christmas cruise is on m.v. Voyager hosted by Sandy Bell and Graham Crane. See the back page for an outline or telephone for a brochure. Our bridge room has been improved and can now hold up to 15 tables.

2014 ON VOYAGER

Next year's cruising on board Voyager will have bridge on every sailing with my experienced hosts providing on board tuition on days at sea and a duplicate after dinner every evening. For full details see page 39. ☎ 01483 489961 for brochures or bookings.

£50 OFF

£50 OFF

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

The fun of duplicate lies in the numbers, so to be certain of these, most of the places are sold ahead of the event at special prices. Payment is taken in full at the time of booking, by cheque or debit card. This offer must close by 30 November. Clubs should consider block-booking and maybe hire a coach.

GALA DINNER

I am looking forward to saying hello to everyone at the New Years Eve Gala Dinner at Denham Grove. I expect to stay on for an after dinner game as last year. See you there.

TIME FLIES

The older I get, the faster time flies by or so it seems but my grandchildren just can't wait. Indeed, some of them think I'm a reactionary old fool, but I'm still sure time passes faster for us older folk. I will think on this and try to explain why it seems to be so, in the next issue. Meanwhile, the young will have to be patient... it will be their turn soon enough.

REMINDER

Club insurances are now due for renewal.

NEW DVD SERIES

Bernard Magee's 2013 DVDs are now on sale. Please go to the inside front cover where all 18 in the three-year series are listed and order on page 7. They are being very well received and are enjoying a growing reputation as the definitive tutorial of each of the given subjects. It's the best.

ANTIQUITY

Mrs Bridge and I join Aegean Odyssey in March on a lovely Voyage that includes the Holy Land. I am really looking forward to visiting these historic sites. I am also looking forward to going to the Black Sea in Autumn 2014. See the advert for both in the centrefold or better still, ring for a brochure. ☎ 01483 489961.

FESTIVE BERNARD

We are filling up for the festive season earlier than usual this year. As a result, we have put on an extra weekend event between Christmas and New Year in north west England.

Inn on the Prom, Lytham
27-29 December 2013
Signals and Discards
Bernard Magee £245
No single supplement.

2014 DIARIES

Next year's bridge players' diaries are still in stock. Both standard and luxury versions are available. See the order form on page 7.

BOXED CARDS

I am clearing twin packs of my lovely premium quality playing cards, in a tasteful gold-coloured drop-lid box. £7 per box, 2 for £12. These are not on my list so please write in or 'phone. ▶



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

HOT TICKET

The next six films in the Better Bridge with Bernard Magee series, are to be shot during an extended weekend at The Devere Denham Grove Conference Centre this coming January. See the adjacent advertisements for a description of the six topics. These are each followed by a session of supervised play.

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.

At the risk of being boring, the offer must close 30 November. Book now to avoid disappointment. '... you will have the time of your life.' Janis Forrest.

CHARITY CARDS



I have donated a half page to Embrace the Middle East, see page 41, a charity that endeavours to promote the true meaning of Christmas by selling cards with a Christmas theme. They also do some crackers which readers might also find amusing while at the same time making a contribution to the work of Embrace.

Q PLUS 11

All the outstanding trade-in and new orders will be sent out in the last week of October. Here are three more interesting hands for your amusement. **8495-04 8901-04 2263-04**

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.

GIFT SUGGESTIONS

Either or both of the David Bird Robin Hood books. Send 4 postage stamps per book or use PayPal at our on-line shop.

Ball point pens with a built-in torch at the other end. Boxed £5 inc. p & p.

Quality silver-coloured keyring with a spring loaded reusable pound-sized coin. Boxed £5 each including p & p.

Bernard Magee's Tutorial CDs, see page 21.

A year's subscription to BRIDGE from £20. See adjacent form.

WISHES

For many of you this will be my last issue before Christmas, but you can read every issue online.

All good wishes.

Mr Bridge

Mr Bridge MAIL ORDER

PLAY SOFTWARE

QPlus 10 / QPlus 11
when ready £92.00

QPlus 10
Second Hand £49.00

Bridge Baron 23 £63.00

Bridge Baron
Trade-in for 23 £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 2011 with
Bernard Magee £69.00

Bundleware Offer
Any two CDs £140.00

TEA TOWELS

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

10 Commandments for
Duplicate Players £7.00

25 Road Traffic Signs for
Bridge Players £7.00

Back In Our Day £7.00

TUTORIAL DVDs

2011 Series - £25 each

Ruffing for Extra Tricks

Competitive Auctions

Making the
Most of High Cards

Identifying &
Bidding Slams

Play & Defence of
1NT Contracts

Doubling & Defence
to Doubled Contracts

All 6 DVDs
as a boxed set £100.00

2012 Series - £25 each

Leads

Losing Trick Count

Making a Plan as Declarer

Responding to 1NT

Signals & Discards

Endplays

All 6 DVDs
as a boxed set £100.00

2013 Series - £25 each

Hand Evaluation

Pre-Empting

Splinter & Cue-Bids

Avoidance

Pairs Play & Defence

Thinking Defence

All 6 DVDs
as a boxed set £100.00

MR BRIDGE TIE
£15.00

NOVELTIES

Torch Pen (boxed) £5.00

Pound for Life
Keyring £5.00

BOOKS

Duplicate Bridge Rules
Simplified £5.95

Better Hand Evaluation
Bernard Magee £14.00

Tips for Better Bridge
Bernard Magee £14.00

Robin Hood's Bridge Memoirs
David Bird £12.00

Bridge Adventures of Robin
Hood - David Bird £12.00

MR BRIDGE DIARIES

Red £6.95

Navy £6.95

Tan £6.95

Burgundy £6.95

Club Prices 10 for £35

Luxury Kidrell Covers & ball-point pen:

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Navy Blue £14.95

Bottle Green £14.95

Club Prices 10 for £90

SUBS (Introductory Rates)

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12 Months Overseas:

Europe £50.00

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Prices are inclusive of VAT and postage to UK mainland.

I enclose a cheque for £.....

Mr/Mrs/Miss

Address

Postcode

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



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

01483 489961 www.mrbridge.co.uk/mrbridge-shop

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.



BRIDGE BREAKS

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- ◆ Two seminars*
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- ◆ 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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Expiry: CVV Issue No.
(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

11-13 Blunsdon House
£245 Leads & Defence

JUNE 2014

6-8 Olde Barn Hotel
£245 Bidding
Distributional Hands **NEW**

20-22 Olde Barn Hotel
£245 Finding Slams

NOVEMBER 2013

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

15-17 Chatsworth Hotel
£245 Bidding
Distributional Hands **NEW**

22-24 Blunsdon House
£245 Better Defence

29-1 Chatsworth Hotel
£245 Suit
Establishment

OCTOBER 2014

3-5 Chatsworth Hotel
£245 Game Tries

10-12 Olde Barn Hotel
£245 Endplay &
Avoidance

NOVEMBER 2014

7-9 Chatsworth Hotel
£245 Hand Evaluation

14-16 Blunsdon House
£245 Further into
the Auction

JANUARY 2014

10-13 Denham Grove
£299 Filming
Weekend

17-19 Chatsworth Hotel
£245 Better Leads
& Switches

21-23 Elstead House
£245 Doubles

28-30 Blunsdon House
£245 Bidding
Distributional Hands **NEW**

MARCH 2014

21-23 Inn
on the Prom
£245 Doubles

APRIL 2014

4-6 Chatsworth Hotel
£245 Finding Slams



Blunsdon House Hotel
Blunsdon, Swindon SN26 7AS

**Full Board. No Single Supplement.
See Adjacent Booking Form.**

Elstead Hotel

Bournemouth
BH1 3QP



BRIDGE EVENTS

8-10 November £199
Just Duplicate Bridge

15-17 November £199
Just Duplicate Bridge

22-24 November £199
Just Duplicate Bridge

10-12 Jan 2014 £199
Just Duplicate Bridge

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DEFENCE QUIZ

by Julian Pottage

(Answers on page 16)

You are East in the defensive positions below. It is your turn to play. Both sides are using Acol with a 12-14 1NT.

1. ♠ 10 8 6 3 2
♥ J 9 5
♦ 5
♣ A K Q 10

♠ A J 9 7 5
♥ 4
♦ 10 7 3
♣ 8 7 5 2

West	North	East	South
1NT	Pass	2♥ ¹	3♥
Pass	4♥	End	

¹Transfer to spades

Partner leads the ♠Q. You win with the ♠A, dropping South's ♠K. What do you return?

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

♠ J 10 8 5
♥ A 4
♦ A 8 4
♣ J 9 7 3

West	North	East	South
Pass	2♣	Pass	1♥
Pass	3♥	Pass	2NT
End		Pass	4♥

Partner leads the ♦J, covered by the ♦K and ♦A. What is your plan?

3. ♠ A Q
♥ 5
♦ A J 9 4 3
♣ A K 9 4 2

♠ K 10 5
♥ A 10 4
♦ K 8
♣ J 10 7 6 3

West	North	East	South
Pass	4♥	End	3♥

Partner leads the ♠3. You capture the ♠Q with the ♠K. What do you return?

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

♠ A J 9 5 2
♥ K 4
♦ K J 8 2
♣ J 3

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

Partner leads the ♠3, won by your ♠A. What do you return?

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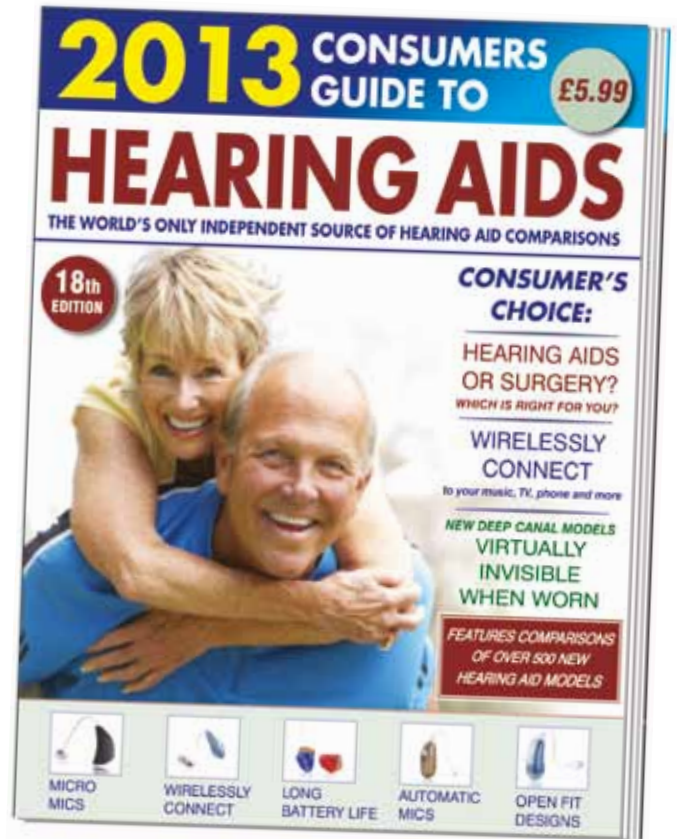
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Answers to Bernard Magee's Bidding Quizzes 1-3 on the Cover

1. Dealer West. Love All.

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

West	North	East	South
?			

1♠. Open your longest suit: you are not balanced and with both majors you should start with your five-card suit. 'Length is strength' is one of the oldest and truest sayings in bridge. By bidding spades first, you will allow your partner to identify that you have five spades and he will choose a 4♠ contract.

You will have to lose the ♠A-K-Q, but that is all you will lose. At first glance, you might not want to play in 4♠ with such a ropery trump suit, but all you have to lose are the ♠A-K-Q and the game makes comfortably. In 3NT, there are only eight tricks as you will not have the time to establish your spades.

2. Dealer West. Love All.

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

West	North	East	South
1NT	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♦	Pass	2♠	Pass
?			

Pass. Your partner has used Stayman and then rebid 2♣ after you denied a four-card major. The question is a simple one: is your partner showing strength or weakness?

Take out the artificial bids and you will get your answer: 1NT – 2♠; this would show a weak hand with five or more

spades. Your partner should hold a weak hand with five or more spades, with four hearts as well. He used Stayman in the hope of finding a heart or spade fit, but without that he settles for playing in 2♣, which you must pass.

3. Dealer East. Love All.

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

West	North	East	South
?		1♠	Pass

2♦. 18 HCP and your partner has opened the bidding.

There can be a temptation to jump around excitedly, but generally you do best to take your time unless you are sure of your denomination. Remember that

your partner has promised to make another bid if you change the suit.

Bid 2♦ and then, over 2♠, bid a new suit at the three-level: once again this would be forcing. Then, when your partner bids 3♠, you can be pretty sure that spades is the best denomination and head towards a slam. 4NT is key-card Blackwood and your partner shows two key-cards. Although your side has all the key-cards, it seems unlikely that a Grand Slam will make since your partner has suggested little extra strength with his repeated spade bids. You might have one spade loser, but hopefully his cards outside spades will be helpful. 6♠ will make comfortably as long as the trumps break 3-2.

West	North	East	South
		1♠	Pass
2♦	Pass	2♠	Pass
3♥	Pass	3♠	Pass
4NT ¹	Pass	5♥ ²	Pass
6♠			

¹Key-card Blackwood

²Two key-cards

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Why Does Counting Points Not Work Sometimes?

Assessing a hand by counting four points for an ace, three for a king, two for a queen and one for a jack should be the start of how you look at it rather than the end. If you were buying a car, you might start by looking at the purchase price. However, you would not expect that alone to tell you whether to buy it. Likewise, the Milton 4321 count is merely one way of looking at a hand. Let us start with an extreme example.

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

Both hands have 10 points. Moreover, both hands have the same spot cards (we will come back to intermediate cards later). Hand A is a poor 10-point hand, with honours all over the place and an unproductive shape (4333). With Hand A, you might expect to make only a couple of tricks if partner has very little. Hand B is an incredible 10-point hand. What is more, no matter how many points you usually add for length or for shortages, no point count method is going to tell you that the hand will produce a grand slam.

Now some more mundane cases:

Hand C	Hand D
♠ A K 10 9	♠ A K 3 2
♥ 7 3 2	♥ 10 9 7
♦ A Q 6 3	♦ A 7 6 3
♣ 7 3	♣ Q 3

Hand C and Hand D both have 13 points. Hand C is better than Hand D on two counts. First, the

10-9 combination is more useful in conjunction with other honours (as it is in the spade suit in Hand C) than it is on its own (in hearts in Hand D). Secondly, the doubleton queen is of unproven value. If partner has a collection of low clubs, Q-x may be worth no more than x-x. For offensive purposes, honours are better in long suits and together.

Suppose that you have opened 1NT, replied 2♠ to Stayman and seen partner raise to 3♠. With Hand C, you would advance to 4♠. With Hand D, you would probably pass. Although other valuation methods would differentiate the hands, if you simply deduct a point for the unguarded queen, that would be a simple adjustment to make.

So far, we have looked at just your hand. In reality, bridge is a partnership game. How two hands fit together makes a big difference.

Hand E	Hand F
♠ K Q 9 5 4	♠ A K J 9 4
♥ A 7 4	♥ Q 7 4
♦ K 5	♦ K J
♣ A 7 4	♣ Q 7 4

Suppose partner opens 1♦, you respond 1♠ and partner raises to 2♠. If you simply count points, you will value the two hands as the same and make the same bid. In fact, you need to treat Hand F the same way you would if one or both of your queens were doubleton. Partner, with most likely five diamonds and four spades, may well have a doubleton heart or a doubleton club, perhaps both. A queen facing a doubleton is a duplicated or wasted value. In both hands, the king of diamonds is a great card, solidifying partner's suit, so worth counting as an ace.

Another form of duplication occurs when you and your partner are short

in the same suit. If you each have a doubleton club and each count a point for the doubleton, you will overvalue the combined trick-taking potential.

Hand G	Hand H
♠ A K J 5 4 2	♠ A K J 5 4 2
♥ A 5	♥ A 5
♦ A 8	♦ A 8 2
♣ 10 3 2	♣ 10 3

Suppose you open 1♠, the next hand overcalls 2♣, partner raises to 2♠ and the next hand bids 3♣. With Hand G, you should count points for your length or shortages (but not both) in the way you usually do. You should jump to 4♠. With Hand H, you should anticipate that partner probably has a doubleton club as well and content yourself with a game try.

Finally, possibly the easiest adjustment to make is for intermediate cards. The average hand contains one ten and one nine. If you have no tens or nines, deduct a point. If you have a couple of both tens and nines, add a point.

In Summary:

- 1 Point count may fail on freak hands.
- 2 Honours in long suits are worth more than those in short suits, especially if the honours in short suits are unguarded. Deduct a point for a doubleton queen or singleton king, but consider adding a point if your long suits are strong.
- 3 Beware of counting lower honours (queens and jacks) at full value in suits where you know partner is short, but give extra value to high cards that fill in partner's long suits.
- 4 If your hand contains a couple fewer or a couple more than its share of tens and nines, subtract or add a point respectively. ■

DECLARER PLAY QUIZ



by **David Huggett**

(Answers on page 20)

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

1. ♠ K 7 6 4
♥ K 8 4
♦ Q 6 2
♣ A K Q



♠ A Q J 8 3
♥ A 7 3 2
♦ K 5
♣ 7 3

3. ♠ J 10 4
♥ K 8 6 3
♦ K 8 6
♣ A J 5



♠ 9 2
♥ A Q 10 7 5
♦ A 5 3
♣ K Q 10

You are declarer in 6♠ after West opens a weak 2♦ (5-9 points). West leads the ♠J. How do you plan the play?

You are in 4♥. East over-called North's 1NT opening with 2♠. West leads the ♠8, East wins the ♠Q and plays the ♠K, West playing the ♠5. East then plays the ♠A. How do you plan the play?

2. ♠ 9 6 5
♥ K 8 6 5
♦ A 10 9 3
♣ 7 5



♠ K 7
♥ A 4 2
♦ Q J 6
♣ A K J 10 2

4. ♠ 7 4
♥ K 9 7
♦ A 9 7 5 4 3
♣ K J



♠ A 9
♥ A 6 5
♦ 6
♣ A Q 10 9 8 4 3

You are declarer in 3NT and West leads the ♠4. East plays the ♠Q. How do you plan the play?

You are declarer in 7♣ and West leads the ♠K. How do you plan the play?

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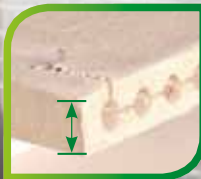


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Answers to Bernard Magee's Bidding Quizzes 4-6 on the Cover

4. Dealer East. Love All.

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



West	North	East	South
?		1♠	Pass

3♠.

You have four-card spade support and less than an opening hand, so you should make a direct raise, but to what level?

10 HCP and no five-card suit, singleton or void so you should simply raise to 3♠.

Using the losing trick count, your first count amounts to 7 losers, but you must take into account that you have an aceless hand.

The LTC assumes that you have a fair spread of honours (aces, kings and queens) so if you find yourself aceless, you must be wary and downgrade your hand.

After the downgrade, you should choose a 3♠ response.

5. Dealer West. Love All.

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



West	North	East	South
1♠	2♣	Pass	Pass
?			

Double.

You open 1♠ and find the auction has come back round to you after North's 2♣ overcall. With both majors, the obvious call is 2♥ which would suggest 5-4 in the majors. However, you do have another option: when only suits have been bid,

early in an auction, doubles at low levels tend to be for take-out. A double would suggest that you have shortage in clubs and can cope with any suit that your partner chooses to bid. This call suits quite well too because you have reasonable support for diamonds as well as both majors. But the best reason for choosing double over any other bid is that it opens up the option of your partner being able to pass for penalties.

If East is sitting with long and strong clubs, he would love to hear a take-out double from you because he would be able to pass for penalties. This is exactly what happens here and you might be able to take 2♣ four off for 800 points.

6. Dealer West. Game All.

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



West	North	East	South
1♥	Pass	2♥	Pass
?			

4♥.

Your partner has made a weak response, but he has shown support. With a fit you can evaluate your hand fully. Two five-card suits, a singleton and a doubleton, along with 13 HCP. Using the traditional method of point count evaluation, you have 13+2+2=17 points; 2 for a singleton and 1 for each of the five-card suits. This would suggest just bidding 3♥. The losing trick count makes things a little easier: 5 losers, which is two better than minimum so you bid two more: 4♥.

5-5 hands are my favourite type of hands: when you find a fit, you should bid boldly, so I prefer going for game. It is your distribution that gives you a chance of success: two ruffs in dummy and then hopefully an established club for your tenth trick. Notice that your partner is absolutely minimum, so he would not accept a game try. ■

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Answers to Julian Pottage's Defence Quiz on page 9

1.

♠ 10 8 6 3 2
♥ J 9 5
♦ 5
♣ A K Q 10

♠ Q 4
♥ A Q 6
♦ K J 9 8 4
♣ 9 6 3

♠ A J 9 7 5
♥ 4
♦ 10 7 3
♣ 8 7 5 2

♠ K
♥ K 10 8 7 3 2
♦ A Q 6 2
♣ J 4

West	North	East	South
1NT	Pass	2♥	3♥
Pass	4♥	End	Transfer

Partner leads the ♠Q. You win with the ♠A, dropping South's ♠K. What do you return?

With the singleton diamond on view, you can guess that declarer plans to ruff a diamond or two in dummy. To thwart this, you switch to your trump. This allows partner to win and play two more rounds. The switch would also work if partner had the ♦A-Q and the ♥K.

2.

♠ 7 2
♥ 10 9 5
♦ K Q 7 3
♣ K Q 10 2

♠ A 9 6 4
♥ 7 6 3
♦ J 10 9 6
♣ 8 5

♠ J 10 8 5
♥ A 4
♦ A 8 4
♣ J 9 7 3

♠ K Q 3
♥ K Q J 8 2
♦ 5 2
♣ A 6 4

West	North	East	South
Pass	2♣	Pass	1♥
Pass	3♥	Pass	2NT
End			4♥

Partner leads the ♦J, covered by the ♦K and ♦A. What is your plan?

This time, dummy has a doubleton rather than a singleton. All the same, you can envisage a possible spade ruff in dummy. Since, ideally, you are looking to remove all of dummy's trumps, you should switch to ace and another trump. You do not want to block yourself by holding on to the ace. While this leaves dummy with one trump, partner can remove it by playing a third round when in with ♠A.

Why do I not suggest trying to set up a third-round club ruff for partner? If partner has the entries needed, the ♣A or the ♥K, declarer has precisely ♠A-K-Q, which is unlikely.

3.

♠ A Q
♥ 5
♦ A J 9 4 3
♣ A K 9 4 2

♠ J 9 6 3 2
♥ J 7
♦ Q 10 7 6
♣ Q 5

♠ K 10 5
♥ A 10 4
♦ K 8
♣ J 10 7 6 3

♠ 8 7 4
♥ K Q 9 8 6 3 2
♦ 5 2
♣ 8

West	North	East	South
Pass	4♥	End	3♥

Partner leads the ♠3. You capture the ♠Q with the ♠K. What do you return?

Assuming the ♠3 is fourth highest, the lead is from a five-card suit (at most), which means that South started with three spades. With more spades in the closed hand than in dummy, a ruff is in the air. Since dummy has only a singleton trump, you can easily prevent a spade ruff. While it might seem tempting

to cash the ♥A, allowing you to hold the lead, this would be a mistake.

The bidding warns you that partner will be short in trumps. If you cash the ace, the jack (or queen) in partner's hand will fall under the king on the second round. You should bide your time and switch to the ♥4. After the trump switch, declarer may win and try to set up dummy's clubs. The 5-2 break in the suit will scupper that plan.

4.

♠ Q
♥ J 10
♦ A Q 10 6 4 3
♣ K 9 4 2

♠ K 7 6 3
♥ 9 5 2
♦ 9 7
♣ Q 10 7 6

♠ A J 9 5 2
♥ K 4
♦ K J 8 2
♣ J 3

♠ 10 8 4
♥ A Q 8 7 6 3
♦ 5
♣ A 8 5

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

Partner leads the ♠3, won by your ♠A. What do you return?

Once again, you can see the threat of a ruff in dummy. As in the previous deals, dummy's long suit poses less of a threat.

Do you want to switch to your low trump? The snag is that declarer has no option but to hope the ♥K is onside (which, on the bidding, it is likely to be). After dummy wins this and later ruffs a spade, your ♥K will fall under the ♥A. Declarer makes a spade ruff, six trumps and three top tricks in the minors.

You need to switch to the ♥K, forcing out the ♥A. Partner's ♥9 will become good. ■