

# BRIDGE


Number One Hundred and Thirty-Five

March 2014

## 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.**  
 ♠ AK42  
 ♥ AK42  
 ♦ 76  
 ♣ 543




West North East South  
 ?

**2. Dealer East. Love All.**  
 ♠ 43  
 ♥ AJ43  
 ♦ 65  
 ♣ AKJ52



West North East South  
 ? 1♦ Pass


**3. Dealer East. N/S Game.**  
 ♠ A2  
 ♥ 4  
 ♦ KQ76543  
 ♣ 652



West North East South  
 ? 3♣ Pass


Answers on page 6

**4. Dealer East. Game All.**  
 ♠ KQ3  
 ♥ KQ3  
 ♦ QJ102  
 ♣ 987



West North East South  
 ? 2NT Pass


**5. Dealer North. N/S Game.**  
 ♠ 32  
 ♥ KJ1096  
 ♦ 76  
 ♣ J987



West North East South  
 ? 1NT Dbl Redbl<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>The start of a wriggle – opener bids 2♣...


**6. Dealer West. Love All.**  
 ♠ 32  
 ♥ AQ832  
 ♦ AK109  
 ♣ A5



West North East South  
 1♥ Pass Pass 2♦  
 ?


Answers on page 9

**7. Dealer East. Game All.**  
 ♠ AK76  
 ♥ 72  
 ♦ AK83  
 ♣ 983



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


**8. Dealer East. Love All.**  
 ♠ 2  
 ♥ AK6543  
 ♦ AK4  
 ♣ 875



West North East South  
 ? 3NT<sup>1</sup> Pass

<sup>1</sup>Gambling 3NT – a weak hand with a long and solid minor


**9. Dealer West. Love All.**  
 ♠ AK854  
 ♥ KQ32  
 ♦ K7  
 ♣ 62



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


Answers on page 11

**10. Dealer North. N/S Game.**  
 ♠ J432  
 ♥ A65  
 ♦ AKQ3  
 ♣ 97




West North East South  
 ? 1♣ 1♠ 2♣

**11. Dealer East. Love All.**  
 ♠ 32  
 ♥ 872  
 ♦ 9543  
 ♣ 8765



West North East South  
 2♦ Pass 2♣ Pass  
 2NT Pass 3♣ Pass  
 ?

**12. Dealer West. Game All.**  
 ♠ 62  
 ♥ 54  
 ♦ K6  
 ♣ AQJ6532



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

Answers on page 13



**NEW**

# CROATIA

**7-21 May 2014**

**BERNARD MAGEE**

**and his supporting team**

**From  
£1399  
sharing**

## HOTEL EDEN, ROVINJ

**Rovinj** is situated on the western coast of Istria in Croatia, the largest peninsula on the Adriatic coastline, a one hour drive from Trieste, 2.5 hours from Zagreb. Boasting a rich, natural and cultural heritage with beautiful landmarks such as the old town, the Golden Cape Park Forest, protected islands and coastal area, Rovinj has many loyal visitors from all parts of the globe and has developed into a popular tourist destination.

The climate is warm and semi-dry, with more than four months a year without wind. Such a mild microclimate is characteristic only to Mali Lošinj and the Brijuni archipelago. There are 134 sunny days in a year, which makes Rovinj the third sunniest spot in the Adriatic. At the same time, it is the least cloudy place.

**Hotel Eden** is wedged right between a peninsula covered by a one hundred year old park forest and a quiet cove. The old city centre of Rovinj is just a 20 minute walk away.

**Rooms:** All rooms are equipped with a direct phone line, LCD SAT TV, mini-bar, safe, bathtub or shower, toilet, hair dryer, balcony, air conditioning/heating. Suites are available, details on application.

**Singles:** There is a sole occupancy supplement of £10 per room per night. If you are a single bridge player, please do not worry about being on your own. We will always be able to find you a partner and you can always have a game. As well as there being other singles in the same situation as yourself, there is the Mr Bridge team who will be happy to partner you if required.

**Entertainment and excursions:** In the hotel, an evening programme of entertainment with live music and dance shows is available for those not wanting to play bridge. During the day and planned around the bridge programme there will be excursions to Venice, Pula, Postjona Caves and Opatija to name just a few.

**Beaches & Pools:** The playful curves of the pool offer refreshment in the summer with a salty breeze coming from the natural stone and pebble beach only a few steps away. The vast outdoor pool will cool you down after a day of lounging in the freely available deck chairs. There is an indoor pool for invigorating laps or afternoon refreshments. Swirl the aches away with massaging water currents in one of the hotel's whirlpools.

Terms and conditions apply. Packaged with and bookings by Tunisia First ATOL 5933. Details of the bridge programme ☎ 01483 489961



# BRIDGE

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Surrey GU21 2TH

☎ 01483 489961

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All correspondence should be addressed to Mr Bridge.  
Please make sure that all letters and e-mails carry full  
postal addresses and telephone numbers.

## ADVERTISEMENTS

### Denham Grove

Denham,  
Bucks, UB9 5DG



28-30 March – £199  
Just Duplicate Bridge

4-6 April – £169  
Rubber / Chicago  
Diana Holland

4-6 July – £199  
Just Duplicate Bridge

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

### RUBBER / CHICAGO EVENTS

Denham Grove  
Bucks UB9 5DG

4-6 April  
with Diana Holland



The Olde Barn  
Marston,

Lincs NG32 2HT  
29-31 August  
with Diana Holland

**£169 Full Board**  
**No Single Supplement**  
Booking Form on page 8.

# JUST DUPLICATE BRIDGE



Elstead Hotel  
Bournemouth BH1 3QP

**14-16 March £199**  
Blunsdon House Hotel

**14-16 March £169**  
The Olde Barn

**21-23 March £199**  
Chatsworth Hotel

**28-30 March £199**  
Denham Grove

**28-30 March £199**  
Elstead Hotel



The Olde Barn Hotel  
Marston, Lincs NG32 2HT

**25-27 April £199**  
Blunsdon House Hotel

**9-11 May £199**  
Blunsdon House Hotel

**16-18 May £169**  
The Olde Barn

**30 May – 1 June £199**  
Chatsworth Hotel

**13-15 June £169**  
The Olde Barn

**Full Board – No Single Supplement**

Booking Form on page 8.

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

**27-29 June £169**  
The Olde Barn

**4-6 July £199**  
Denham Grove

**11-13 July £169**  
The Olde Barn

**18-20 July £199**  
Blunsdon House Hotel

**1-3 August £169**  
The Olde Barn



Chatsworth Hotel  
Worthing BN11 3DU

**12-14 September £169**  
The Olde Barn

**10-12 October £199**  
Blunsdon House Hotel

**10-12 October £199**  
Elstead Hotel

**17-19 October £169**  
The Olde Barn

**24-26 October £199**  
Chatsworth Hotel



Blunsdon House Hotel  
Blunsdon, Swindon SN26 7AS

## DONATION



If this copy of BRIDGE has been posted to you and you are not yet a subscriber, it will be your last free hard copy. Up until the middle of last year, BRIDGE had been posted free, but ever-rising postal rates makes this impossible. Consider the introductory subscription rate of £20 per twelve copies as being like a donation.

Please complete the subscription form on page 7 or telephone using a credit or debit card. This process will continue for the next nine months until every non-subscriber has had a final goodbye copy.

## GOING UP

If you want to save on postage, especially as postal rates go up again this month, 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.

## DUPLICATE

I am still committed to the promotion of my **Just Duplicate Bridge** weekend events, see the adjacent advert. They are all full board and include a traditional Sunday Roast.

## CLEARANCE

I can clear most of my surplus or second-hand products by sending out emails to local clubs and/or bridge players.

To be able to include you I will need an email address, so if I do not have yours, do send it right away to: [bridge@mrbridge.co.uk](mailto:bridge@mrbridge.co.uk)

## DAMAGED

I have a quantity of the first set of Bernard Magee's DVDs without cellophane wrappers and/or boxes. These are to clear at £30 including delivery, reduced from £100. This can be done using my online shop. [www.mrbridge.co.uk/mrbridge-shop/](http://www.mrbridge.co.uk/mrbridge-shop/)

All sets of six are guaranteed complete and unused. For multiple orders, please telephone before placing your order as priority will be given to individual orders.

You may also order by telephone or by post.

I tested this offer on Scottish readers. Printed below is the reaction of Mrs Jill R Stewart, of Oban, and hers is typical.

*I am writing to let you know how pleased I am with the Bernard Magee box set of DVDs. You did explain that the outer carton and DVD covers were damaged but, of course, the DVDs themselves are fine. As a Scot who knows a good deal when she sees one, this must be the bargain of the year.*

## CROATIA

Bernard Magee is going to this lovely country, 7-21 May, £1399 half board, £10 per night single supplement. See the advert on page 2. ▶

## PICK 'N' MIX



All three series of six DVDs are listed on page 10 with thumbnail descriptions of their content. Playing time is an average of 90 minutes. The wonderful thing about a tutorial DVD is that viewers have a permanent record which they can re-visit over and over again. Individual DVDs, £25 each. Boxed sets of six, £100. Pick and mix. Six for only £105 including postage.

## DENHAM EVENTS

Bernard Magee, pictured above, will host both the Twixmas and New Year's Eve Events at Denham Grove this year. Be sure to book early.

The fifth in the series of these six part filmed events is scheduled for Denham Grove next January. Three night's full board, six lectures, six sessions of supervised play. £399 per person, see the advert on page 7. A really interesting experience that you will never forget and something you should be part of a least once in a lifetime.

## EARLY BIRD

Bernard Magee will be sailing from Mumbai to Jordan on Aegean Odyssey, pictured above, next March on his 100th cruise as a Mr Bridge host. Fares from £1695 per person and there are special opportunities for early booking singles.

## VERY MODERN

Readers may have noticed a new advertisement for Genesis Choice, which first appeared in our last issue. Genesis Choice are currently advertising their travel insurance in BRIDGE for the first time and as part of a special promotion they will be giving Policy holders a very special type of traceable luggage tag in appreciation of their business. To re-coin a phrase, **'The Acumen Luggage Tracker Tag does what it says on the label'**.

With a unique bar code on the label, you can add your contact details online. Without the security risk of putting ones name and address on a suitcase, an owner can be quickly and easily identified and contacted wherever their bag is found. The tag is not limited to air travel, but can be used by all and any travel services worldwide.

The great thing is that if you register bag 'A' and the on the next trip decide to take Bag 'B', it is no problem as in a matter of seconds online, you are able to re-assign your personal information to the new bag. You can also renew the label cover annually.

If you want to know more about this label go to [www.acumenluggagetracker.co.uk](http://www.acumenluggagetracker.co.uk)

If you have ever lost your luggage, you will be only too aware of the agony, time and stress caused in searching for and retrieving the lost item. Using this 21st century technology nobody should ever lose their luggage again, as one swipe of the bar code by a baggage attendant at any airport worldwide will solve the problem.

## TELL ME ABOUT IT

The now not so new town of Milton Keynes has a district known as Blue Bridge, presumably named after the railway bridge, built over 140 years ago, using the local blue clay bricks. It is now a listed structure of special interest.

I have asked Stewart Pye, a reader living in Blue Bridge, to find out why its roads and drives have been given names related to the game of bridge. Hopefully, he will tell us how Blackwood Crescent and Gardiner Court came to be so named.

## BELIEVE IT OR NOT

It is nearly twenty years since I published the first issue of BRIDGE in the spring of 1994. It is also five years since I had my government sponsored coaching to develop as a business man.

## NEW MAN

Members need to be sure their club is covered by insurance for small amounts of cash and their equipment as well as public liability. Just over £63 for a twelve month period for a club of up to 100 members. There are over five hundred clubs in my scheme enjoying peace of mind. There is a new contact at managing brokers, Moore Stephens. Ring Tom Harvey ☎ 0207 515 5270. It is the unexpected that you need to have covered.

## QPLUS BRIDGE

This month's new numbers are listed below and I am preparing a full list which I will incorporate in next months issue.

5702-07    1186-01  
1489-01    0652-01

## VOYAGER

Good news. We have a new bridge room onboard m.v. Voyager, pictured below. I am now able to recommend readers to book with real confidence. Have a look at the advert on page 42 and if a cruise takes your fancy, give my office a ring and we will send you the 2014/2015 brochure. ☎ 01483 489961.



There are now no bridge supplements for those booking any of our cruises or overseas holidays, so no excuses for not booking with Mr Bridge as we can match all prices.

## TRAVEL COVER

As I am not competent to advise on these matters, I will be carrying adverts for different providers. Make sure you read all the small print, however boring, to cover your risks while away from home, see page 17.

## BETTER BRIDGE

Those readers taking up the damaged DVDs offer will be delighted to learn that there is a CD available that will provide 20 hands of supervised play for each of the topics covered by the DVDs they have bought.

These I am happy to offer at half price (£35). Those readers who have enjoyed using Bernard Magee's Acol Bidding over the years will be thrilled to discover the existence of this extension to their enjoyment. As I say, half price. £35.

All good wishes,

**Mr Bridge**



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

## 1. Dealer West. Love All.

♠ AK42		♠ 98
♥ AK42		♥ 53
♦ 76		♦ AK852
♣ 543		♣ Q986

West	North	East	South
?			

**1NT.** This is a simple question: you have a bare 14 HCP and a balanced hand, so you open 1NT.

It is important to follow your system on balanced hands, otherwise you will not find the right level for your final contract. Your system says that with a balanced hand of 12-14 points you should open 1NT. It revolves about the shape of your hand rather than the placement of high cards in your hand. If you open in a suit, 1♥ or 1♠, then partner responds 2♦ and, whatever you do next, you are going to be too high. If you rebid 2NT, partner will raise to 3NT. But if you bid a second suit, your partner will return to your first bid suit.

With distributional hands, you can sometimes stretch the rules to fit your hand. However, with balanced hands at the start of the auction, it is important to follow the rules to give a clear picture of your hand.

## 2. Dealer East. Love All.

♠ 43		♠ AK52
♥ AJ43		♥ 8
♦ 65		♦ AK743
♣ AKJ52		♣ Q98

West	North	East	South
		1♦	Pass

**2♣.** When you have a strong hand, you should try to bid your hand's shape. You have the strength to bid game opposite

your partner's opening bid, so you will be able to show both of your suits. Therefore, you should start by bidding clubs first and then follow up by bidding hearts: showing five and four. If, instead, you start by responding 1♥, your partner is more likely to place you with five hearts and four clubs, when you bid the second suit.

It is only when you are weak that you bid a four-card major in preference to a five-card minor: this is because you can afford to bid only once, so you choose the more important suit.

Here, by responding 2♣, you give the partnership the chance to find the best fit and explore for the best contract: 1♦-2♣-2♠-2NT-3♣... The opener has shown his three suits and therefore suggested shortage in hearts, which should push you to bid towards 6♣.

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

♠ A2		♠ 54
♥ 4		♥ 976
♦ KQ76543		♦ 8
♣ 652		♣ AK98743

West	North	East	South
		3♣	Pass

**5♣.** Your partner has opened with a pre-empt and you have a weak hand too, so it looks like this should be your opponents' hand.

You have long diamonds, but they are not relevant to the hand since you have a good fit with your partner's suit. You know your opponents have a good heart fit since your partner will not have four hearts for his pre-emptive opening. You expect to make at most two tricks against 4♥ and your partner is likely to have only one trick at most.

Expecting 4♥ to make, you should make an advance sacrifice of 5♣. This stops your opponents discussing their hands to find their best fit and forces them to guess.

If you pass or bid 3♦ this makes life easy for North, who probably has a very strong hand. 4♣ might do the trick, but might also allow your opponents to at least have a little conversation. Instead, over 5♣, they may have to guess – what does their double mean? Have they discussed it? ■

## 2014 FESTIVE SEASON EVENTS

**Denham Grove**  
Near Uxbridge, UB9 5DG

Christmas 23-27 Dec  
Just Duplicate Bridge £495

Twixmas 27-29 Dec  
Seminar Event £245

New Year 29 Dec-2 Jan  
Seminar Event £445

**Olde Barn Hotel**  
Marston, Lincs, NG32 2HT

Christmas 23-27 Dec  
Just Duplicate Bridge £495

Twixmas 27-29 Dec  
Seminar Event £215

New Year 29 Dec-1 Jan  
Seminar Event £345

Back to Back bookings – save £50 per booking.

Booking Form on page 8.

# BERNARD MAGEE at Denham Grove

Near Uxbridge,  
Bucks, UB9 5DG.

**9-12 January  
2015**

**£399**

**Friday - Monday**

**£369**

**Friday - Sunday**

**full board**

Limited places for  
Thursday night available.  
£45pp single,  
£65 double/twin.

## Topics

### DAY 1

- Take-Out Doubles
- Defending Against INT

### DAY 2

- Defence as Partner of the Leader
- Strong Opening Bids

### DAY 3

- Suit Establishment
- Competitive (Aggressive) Bidding

6 seminar sessions  
with Bernard<sup>1</sup>

6 sessions of  
supervised play<sup>2</sup>

Contact Mr Bridge to  
book your place or  
for further details:

☎ 01483 489961

<sup>1</sup>Filmed <sup>2</sup>Not with Bernard Magee

# Mr Bridge MAIL ORDER

## PLAY SOFTWARE

QPlus 11	<b>NEW</b> £92.00 .....
QPlus Trade-in	£49.00 .....
QPlus 10 (S/Hand)	£50.00 .....
Bridge Baron 24	<b>NEW</b> £69.00 .....
Bridge Baron Trade-in for 24	£35.00 .....

## TUTORIAL SOFTWARE

Begin Bridge - Acol	£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 .....
<b>Bundleware Offer</b>	
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 .....
We Are Survivors	£7.00 .....

## TUTORIAL DVDs

<b>2011 Series - £25 each</b>	
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 .....
<b>2012 Series - £25 each</b>	
Leads	.....
Losing Trick Count	.....
Making a Plan as Declarer	.....
Responding to 1NT	.....
Signals & Discards	.....
Endplays	.....
All 6 DVDs as a boxed set	£100.00 .....
<b>2013 Series - £25 each</b>	
Hand Evaluation	.....
Pre-Emptying	.....
Splinter & Cue-Bids	.....
Avoidance	.....
Pairs Play & Defence	.....
Thinking Defence	.....
All 6 DVDs as a boxed set	£100.00 .....
<b>PICK 'N' MIX</b>	
Any 6 DVDs	£105.00 .....

## NOVELTIES

Mr Bridge Torch Pen (boxed)	£5.00 .....
Mr Bridge 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 for 2014

Red	£6.95 .....
Navy	£6.95 .....
Club Prices 10 for £35	.....
<b>Luxury Kidrell Covers &amp; ball-point pen:</b>	
Ruby Red	£14.95 .....
Bottle Green	£14.95 .....
Club Prices 10 for £90	.....

## SUBS (Introductory Rates)

12 Months	£20.00 .....
24 Months	£35.00 .....
36 Months	£50.00 .....
<b>12 Months Overseas:</b>	
Europe	£50.00 .....
Outside Europe	£95.00 .....

Prices are inclusive of VAT and postage to UK mainland.

I enclose a cheque for £.....

Mr/Mrs/Miss .....

Address .....

Postcode .....

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--



Expiry: ..... CVV ..... Issue No. ....  
(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



# BRIDGE BREAKS

- ◆ 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 .....

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

## 4. Dealer East. Game All.

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

West	North	East	South
?		2NT	Pass

**6NT.** Your partner has shown 20-22 and you have 13 HCP. You are 3-3-4-3 which is not good, but you do have the ♦10 to counterbalance the poor shape. Knowing that no-trumps is the right denomination, it is just a question of deciding the correct level.

Points matter, not aces and kings: your queens and jacks are just as valuable in no-trump contracts.

For 6NT, you require about 33 points between the two hands: you have 33-35, which suggests you should bid 6NT.

If you know the denomination and the level, then bid it.

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

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

West	North	East	South
?	1NT	Dbl	Redbl!

The start of a wriggle – opener bids 2♣...

**Pass.** Most club players play wriggles over 1NT (methods to escape from 1NT doubled) and with good reason at club level, because they never get hunted down. At higher levels, very few wriggles are played because your opponents are more likely to keep doubling you and you end up with a worse score.

A lot of West players will call 2♥ with this hand: competing the deal, only to find that South was planning to show a five-card heart suit later in the auction: South has five points including five hearts to the queen. Had you been patient, you

could have doubled South in 2♥ or your partner would double any other contract. 2♥ doubled would have been great fun. Certainly more so than playing 2♥ yourself, although you should probably get eight tricks. One way you score +110 and the other you get +800 or +1,100.

Once your side has doubled 1NT for penalties, be on the look out for subsequent penalty doubles, but only if you are long in their suit: you need both trumps and points to double at low levels.

## 6. Dealer West. Love All.

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

West	North	East	South
1♥	Pass	Pass	2♦
?			

**Pass.** A double here would be for take-out: asking your partner to bid again despite his showing 0-5 points; aiming to compete for the hand. With your hand, you would prefer to play in diamonds, so keep quiet and if partner doubles later, then you can pass for penalties.

Of course, this kind of bidding can depend on how aggressive your partnership is at competing for the partscore. A lot of Easts might pass out 2♦, but it is actually East's job to keep the bidding open. With short diamonds, he would like to play in another suit and he can show his hand by making a take-out double. I know he is weak, but he has already expressed his weakness by passing on the first round (0-5), so within that range he is pretty strong. Competing for partscores is such an important duplicate tactic: remember that -50 will often score well.

On this hand, you would pass the take-out double and hope to collect 300 points by defeating 2♦ doubled by two tricks. ■

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# Answers to Bernard Magee's Bidding Quizzes 7-9 on the Cover

## 7. Dealer East. Game All.

♠ AK76		♠ 2
♥ 72		♥ AK863
♦ AK83		♦ QJ42
♣ 983		♣ QJ2

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

**3♣.** You have 14 HCP, which, opposite an opening hand, is enough for game, but which game?

With three suits bid, the focus is on the fourth suit: clubs. You have no high cards in clubs and thus a no-trump bid would be dangerous. However, a diamond bid is not ideal either: 3♦ is too weak and 4♦ commits you to playing in diamonds rather than the other options.

Better is to make a forcing bid and enlist your partner to help you choose the final contract. The best bid is to use

fourth suit forcing: using the bid in the last suit artificially, to get your partner to bid once more and particularly to show a stopper in the suit by rebidding 3NT.

This is exactly what East would do here: his club holding is enough to stop the run of the suit and makes 3NT the best contract.

## 8. Dealer East. Love All.

♠ 2		♠ 64
♥ AK6543		♥ 72
♦ AK4		♦ 98
♣ 875		♣ AKQJ932

West	North	East	South
		3NT <sup>1</sup>	Pass
	?		

<sup>1</sup>Gambling 3NT – a weak hand with a long and solid minor

**6♣.** Your partner is showing a solid minor suit (7+ cards) with very little (or

no) strength outside. It is your job to place the final contract. With stops in all the suits, you can contemplate passing 3NT, but that is clearly not the case here. Otherwise, you choose the level you want to play in partner's suit. Sometimes, it is not clear which suit your partner holds, but here it is clearly clubs since you hold the ♦A-K. Your partner has shown 7 tricks, you have four top tricks to add and surely you are likely to make a spade ruff too, for a twelfth trick. Bearing this in mind, you should respond 6♣, expecting to make it comfortably.

With a ten-card club fit, there is no reason to contemplate a heart contract.

## 9. Dealer West. Love All.

♠ AK854		♠ 92
♥ KQ32		♥ 86
♦ K7		♦ Q4
♣ 62		♣ A987543

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

**Pass.** A strange auction: your partner has started by showing a weak hand and then bid 3♣.

Trust your partner: do not expect him to have found a lost card – he will have a weak hand and the reason he has bid 3♣ now, is that he thinks it will make the best contract, so you should pass.

A 1NT response followed up by a bid of a suit, generally shows a weak hand with a very long suit – too weak to respond at the two-level initially.

The reason East bids 3♣ is because he can see the potential for 5 club tricks in his hand, but little else. Played in any other denomination, the club suit will be worthless, but in 3♣, the suit does indeed make 5 tricks, which added to ♠A-K and a trick in each red suit allows you to make nine tricks.

## Chatsworth Hotel

Worthing BN11 3DU



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# Answers to Bernard Magee's Bidding Quizzes 10-12 on the Cover

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

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

<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
	1♣	1♠	2♣
?			

**3♣.** You have a very nice hand: in fact, you may have the best hand at the table, yet you have heard everybody speaking in the auction already. It is not unreasonable to think that your side can make 4♣: even if your partner has a weak overcall, but you must avoid the temptation to jump to 4♣. It is important to predict how the auction might progress. If North bids on to 5♣, what do you think your partner will do?

He looks at the vulnerability and his own hand and he may assume that they can make 5♣ and go for a cheap sacrifice in 5♣. How is he to know that it is the opponents who are the weaker side?

You need to tell your partner that you are the strong side by bidding 3♣ – the opponents' suit. You will follow up later by bidding 4♣. After which your partner will not drive on to 5♣, instead he will leave the decision up to you – a double of 5♣ works out much better.

4♣ makes ten tricks only, whilst 5♣

will go one or two off: note that two off doubled (+500) would be worth more than your game.

When your hand is unexpectedly strong, it is important to try to tell your partner, before he does something foolish. His response to 3♣ would be 3♠, showing a weak overcall, or if North carries on to 4♣, East would pass leaving the decisions up to you.

will show your suit now, if you have one, or even show where your strength is. After all, he does not need much to make a slam viable.

However, you finish off your perfect description by raising to 4♠ – showing absolutely nothing.

Your partner passes satisfied that he has shown his great hand and therefore that a slam is not possible.

## 11. Dealer East. Love All.

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

<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
		2♣	Pass
2♦	Pass	2♠	Pass
2NT	Pass	3♠	Pass
?			

**4♣.** When your partner opens 2♣ and rebids in a suit, he is showing a hand that wants to play in game even if you hold a Yarborough. You must keep bidding until a game contract is reached. Your 2♦ was the negative response and then 2NT was a second negative showing 0-3 points. Partner knows you are very weak but you still have to bid. East is taking his time to find the best contract, he is hoping you

## 12. Dealer West. Game All.

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

<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
1♣	1♥	1♠	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♦	Pass
3♣	Pass	3NT	Dbl
?			

**Pass.** Your partner has bid 3NT and South has doubled. Should you rescue the situation?

You have described your hand neatly: you have shown the equivalent of a preemptive three opening with 10-12 points. A hand that you felt was just too strong to open 3♣.

If you had something very different, or perhaps if your suit was particularly weak, then you might want to take out. However, with this hand, you should leave it up to your partner. Trust him: his 3NT bid was based on his ♣K and will get you a great score. It would have been +630, but now it will be +950 for 3NT doubled plus one.

South's double is probably based on him holding 10 or 11 HCP after his partner overcalled. It is not unreasonable to double contracts like this aggressively, but you do need to know that the opponents' long suit is not running, otherwise 3NT can be made with just 22 points, as here. ■

## Elstead Hotel Bournemouth BH1 3QP



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# UNLICENSED GAMBLING

**Regina v. Erehwon Duplicate Bridge Club  
before Mr Justice Diamond, at the Old Bailey**

After the evidence and counsels' closing speeches, the judge summed up to the jury as follows

“Ladies and gentlemen of the jury, this case concerns, as you have heard, the Committee of the Erehwon Duplicate Bridge Club, who have been charged with using the Erehwon Community Hall for the purposes of gambling without a licence. At the start of the case, I informed prosecuting and defence counsel that I play bridge (to a very modest standard). Both sides were happy for me to hear this case nevertheless.

You may have been as surprised as I was to learn that playing bridge amounts to gambling, but Mr Killjoy for the prosecution based his case on the Gambling Act 2005 where it says (section 3) that gambling includes gaming and (section 6) that gaming means playing a ‘game of chance’. But surely, you may say, gambling means playing for money and there are no money prizes at the Erehwon Duplicate Bridge Club. You may well say that, but the Gambling Act does not. Whether or not you play for money (or indeed other prizes) is apparently irrelevant to whether gambling is taking place.

Now, a few people make their living from bridge; some play for their country; some for master points; large numbers for a penny a hundred; many for pure enjoyment. The notable thing is that some people consistently do much better than others when they play bridge. That does not suggest to me that bridge is a game of chance – indeed I agree with Mr Pontjoueur, defence counsel, that bridge is a game of great skill, about which,

incidentally, many learned tomes have been written, lessons taught and magazines published. I am not sure that anyone has written a book worth reading on how to win at, say, roulette.

During this case, the example hand shown below was discussed at some length by counsel in arguing this point. South is playing in 3NT after West overcalled in spades. West led the ♠J and East played low. I will remind you of how this hand was played later, but to me it demonstrates clearly that skill is much more important than chance in, at any rate, duplicate bridge.

♠ 4 2  
♥ 5 3  
♦ A K 10 7 6 3  
♣ A 10 3

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

However, as Mr Killjoy pointed out, section 6 of the Act also says that, ‘a game of chance includes a game that involves an element of chance and an element of skill,’ and not even Mr Pontjoueur would go so far as to say that there is no element of chance in duplicate bridge. Duplicate bridge seeks to avoid the element of chance as far as possible, but inevitably some

remains – which particular hands you play against which opponents, the skill of those particular opponents, the conventions they use and so on. So, strange as it may seem, you may feel constrained to conclude that, *prima facie*, bridge counts as a game of chance for the purposes of the Gambling Act.

Mr Pontjoueur, however, then pointed out that Section 6 goes on to say that playing a ‘sport’ is not to be treated as gambling. Is bridge a sport? Mr Pontjoueur reminded us that, in the latest Olympics, England did particularly well in the sitting-down sports (rowing, sailing, cycling, horse-riding etc) and the playing of bridge, also a sitting-down activity, was a natural extension of that. Indeed, the bridge authorities (not just in this country) have in recent years argued forcefully that bridge is a sport and should be included in the Olympics. If it were so included, then clearly it would fall outside the Gambling Act and the defendants would be entitled to be discharged immediately, if not sooner.

Mr Killjoy responded that the key characteristics of a sportsman are fitness, speed and/or strength – none of them, as he put so eloquently, much in evidence at your average bridge club on a Monday evening. Moreover, he says, the authorities have so far failed to make their case that bridge is a sport.

All in all, you may conclude that bridge does not at present count as a sport and is therefore deemed to be gambling. ▶

But, says Mr Pontjoueur, there are a couple of other 'safe havens' in the Gambling Act, namely the 'members' club' and the 'private gaming' exceptions. Again, however, I must agree with Mr Killjoy that, on careful analysis, neither of these exceptions is available here, since they require the defendants to have run the Club mainly for purposes other than gaming, or in someone's home. Neither is the case here.

At this point, I should remind you that those who, without a licence, provide facilities for gambling are, by virtue of section 33 and/or 37 of the Gambling Act, guilty of an offence and thus liable to a substantial fine and/or imprisonment for up to 51 weeks (though in Scotland only up to six months – I wonder if this is because of the Scottish weather, the state of its prisons, the gambling culture there, the length of its weeks or some other reason?). So this is a serious matter (though apparently less so in Scotland).

Accordingly, it seems that the Erehwon Duplicate Bridge Club and no doubt many hundreds of other bridge clubs up and down the land may be committing an offence by conducting illegal gambling unless they have obtained a gaming licence, which, according to Mr Pontjoueur, virtually none of them have.

So, members of the jury, having heard what the law is, you must now retire and decide whether or not the committee of the Erehwon Duplicate Bridge Club are guilty of the heinous crime

charged. You heard what Mr Pontjoueur said, most eloquently, in their defence. If you find them guilty, you may wish to recommend a suitable punishment."

The jury then left the courtroom and returned shortly afterwards. On being asked for their verdict, the foreman said that yes, they had reached a unanimous decision, namely that none of the defendants were guilty. He went on to say that the decision had been based largely on the fact that his Lordship was a keen bridge player and they did not wish to do anything which might lead to his being charged with illegal gambling. Had they found the defendants guilty, the foreman added, the jury would have recommended two days in prison for each of them (one day if the sentence were to be served in Scotland).

His Lordship then explained, for the benefit of the public, what happened on the hand discussed during the case.

**Dealer North. Love All.**

♠ 4 2
♥ 5 3
♦ A K 10 7 6 3
♣ A 10 3

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

N
W E
S

♠ K Q 6
♥ A Q 9 2
♦ 5 2
♣ K J 7 4

West	North	East	South
	1♦	Pass	1♥
1♠	2♦	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

3NT by South.  
Lead: ♠J.

"After overcalling in spades, West made the opening lead of the ♠J, won by South with the ♠K, who then, at each table led the ♦2.

At table 1, South (a beginner) played off dummy's two top diamonds (West playing ♦4 then ♦Q), then led a third diamond, hoping (if indeed he had turned his mind to the matter) that West would win the trick. Unfortunately for South it was East who won it and fired back a spade, whereupon West won four spade tricks in short order. One down.

At table 2, South (an intermediate player) finessed ♦10 on the first round of diamonds. Same result.

At table 3, South (a good player) led the ♦2 to ♦4, ♦K and ♦8, then returned to hand with the ♣K and led the ♦5. When West played the ♦Q, declarer played low in dummy. He made his contract easily.

At table 4, when West (artfully) played ♦Q on the first round of diamonds, South could not resist the temptation (no doubt hoping that West held ♦Q-J doubleton) to win with the ♦K, again allowing East to win the third round of the suit and return a spade. Also one down.

*Res ipsa loquitur*, as we lawyers say on these occasions."

**Reporter: Richard Wheen, after A.P. Herbert**

*PS by Richard Wheen. As far as I know, the above statements about the Gambling Act are the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth. I would welcome views as to why bridge clubs do not in fact need a gaming licence. Perhaps the English Bridge Union could help here. ■*

## Blunston House Hotel

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# Why is 4NT Better Than 4♣ for Ace Asking?

There are two main reasons why it is much better to check on aces or key cards with 4NT than with 4♣. Firstly, whether you are missing two aces should be only one component on a slam hunt, one to do after you have checked other issues, rather than the starting point. Secondly, a bid of 4♣ has so many other possible uses that you cannot afford to sacrifice it for use as an ace enquiry.

On 61% of deals, one side or the other has at least three of the four aces. Obviously, a slam is not available on anything like 61% of deals. Playing double dummy, one side can make a slam about 10% of the time. Probably only half of those slams are biddable, which gives us a biddable slam say 5% of the time. On the other 56%, a slam is either not available or is against the odds. In other words, the vast majority of the time that one side has three or four aces, being in a slam is not sensible. Even if your methods allow you to detect trump honours as well as aces, it is clear that a key card enquiry will rarely tell you positively that you can make a slam.

Before checking on key cards, you want first (a) to establish what denomination you will play in (b) whether you have the playing strength to make twelve tricks and (c) whether you have two fast losers in one suit. For these reasons, it is an advantage to have the ace or key card enquiry at a high level: this gives you more time to check on (a), (b) and (c).

What are the other possible uses for a 4♣ bid? For everyone, you might want to bid 4♣ naturally. For anyone who plays cue bids (and you will find it difficult to avoid bidding slams with two top losers in a suit if you do not),

you might want to bid 4♣ as a cue bid. For anyone who plays splinters (and you will find it difficult to bid slams that depend upon fit and ruffing values if you do not), you might want to bid 4♣ as a splinter. Although I can think of other possible uses of 4♣, depending upon your methods, let us concentrate on those three.

♠ 7  
♥ AK965  
♦ 74  
♣ AKQ74

<b>You</b>	<b>Partner</b>
1♥	2♦
3♣	3♠*
?	*Fourth suit forcing

You want to be able to bid a natural 4♣.

♠ 7  
♥ K5  
♦ K74  
♣ AQ87632

<b>You</b>	<b>LHO</b>	<b>Partner</b>	<b>RHO</b>
?		1♥	3♣

You want to be able to bid a natural 4♣. You do not want to have to jump to 5♣. Doing so could take you past the best game if partner has six hearts or give partner a horrible guess whether to raise to 6♣ if he likes clubs.

On the next hand, slam prospects look quite good so long as the opponents cannot cash two diamond tricks.

♠ AK9732  
♥ Void  
♦ J104  
♣ AKJ9

<b>You</b>	<b>Partner</b>
1♠	3♠
?	

To find out whether they can cash two diamond tricks, you want to cue bid 4♣, showing the club control and leaving room for partner to bid 4♦. You do not want to have to cue bid 4♥ and then 5♣. Doing so could result in one down at the five level if partner unluckily has three losing diamonds.

♠ AJ942  
♥ AJ103  
♦ A62  
♣ 3

<b>You</b>	<b>Partner</b>
1♠	2♥
?	

A splinter bid of 4♣ describes the hand very nicely – a sound raise to 4♥ with a shortage in clubs. If you cannot bid 4♣ because it is an asking bid, you have no equivalent way to describe your hand. If you simply bid 4♥, partner will not know whether you have a flatter hand or maybe a hand like this with the minor suits the other way round. Inventing 3♣ with a view to raising hearts later is even riskier: if partner raises clubs or gives you preference to spades, it will not even be clear that 4♥ next time shows support. ■