



Tuesday 10 - Sunday 22 January, 2023

Seniors and Women's playoff stage



Bulletin 4

Friday January 13

Results

Carters rule

I have played against all three members of the Carter clan. Malcolm Carter was my RHO in Adelaide for the 2022 Interstate Teams, where he was in partnership with Convener Ian Thomson. He was my LHO when playing with daughter Jen in the Mixed Teams competition at the most recent Canberra in Bloom event.

Mother Lyn Carter, playing the Women's Teams with Jen and teammates Maha Hoenig and Janeen Solomon from Queensland, has also been my foe.

I am still dark after being doubled by Lyn in 3♥, playing at the Canberra Bridge Club in 2021 when she was playing with Anne Powell. 3♥x was two down, from memory, when others were making nine or 10 tricks.

Jen learned bridge four years ago around the dining table during the Christmas break. She plays with both parents, while Malcolm provides learned tutelage. Jen missed out on being part of the youth



Submissions to Editor, Stephen Lester

bridge scene as she has two young children, four and one.

It is great to see a family playing together. On Lyn's side, there have been four generations of bridge players. Jen is a member of Canberra Bridge Club, and already a State Master. With both parents Grand Masters (Malcolm a Silver Grand), it won't be long before Jen advances to the next level.

Showup Squeeze

Nearing 30, an aged youth player, Lauren Travis played some of the Youth Week events. She was impressed by one of the young guy's declarer play on the deal below, bringing it to my attention.

Board 2, East deals, NS vulnerable

♠ A 7 3
♥ K
♦ J 6 4
♣ A Q 10 6 4 3

♠ Q 10
♥ A 8 7 6
♦ K Q 10 8 3 2
♣ 8



♠ 9 8 6 2
♥ J 4
♦ A 9 7
♣ J 7 5 2

♠ K J 5 4
♥ Q 10 9 5 3 2
♦ 5
♣ K 9

| West | North | East | South |
|---------------|------------|---------------|--------------|
| <i>Lauren</i> | <i>Tom</i> | <i>Joshua</i> | <i>Daryl</i> |
| | | pass | pass |
| 1♦ | pass | 1♠ | pass |
| 2♦ | pass | pass | 2♥ |
| pass | 3♣ | pass | 3♥ |
| dbl | all pass | | |

Lauren had had enough when South bid twice, revealing what she thought would be a NS misfit. She led $\heartsuit K$ and a second diamond, which Daryl Whitfield ruffed.

He led a heart. Lauren grabbed her ace and continued diamonds, trying the effect of a forcing defence. Daryl, however, was in control. He drew the rest of the trumps to reach this ending:

| | | | | | | |
|--|---|---|-----|---|--|--|
| \heartsuit A 7 \spadesuit --- \clubsuit --- \heartsuit A Q 10 6 | <table border="1" style="border-collapse: collapse; width: 40px; height: 40px; margin: auto;"> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">N</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">W E</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">S</td></tr> </table> | N | W E | S | \heartsuit 9 8 \spadesuit --- \clubsuit --- \heartsuit K J 5 4 \spadesuit --- \clubsuit --- \heartsuit K 9 | \heartsuit Q 10 \spadesuit --- \clubsuit Q 10 8 \heartsuit 8 \spadesuit 9 8 \heartsuit --- \clubsuit J 7 5 2 |
| N | | | | | | |
| W E | | | | | | |
| S | | | | | | |

Now when Daryl went to cash out the club suit, and finding clubs didn't break, he knew East had only two spades left, so when he cashed $\heartsuit A$ and played a second spade, he knew that Lauren had a doubleton queen.

Lauren didn't mind donating +1130 to a fine declarer. Daryl now an engineer, used to direct at the Canberra Bridge Club.



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Happy slams

The final day of the Women's and Seniors Teams saw slams abound – with most of them making.

You are South declaring 6NT, having opened a slightly offshape 14-16 1NT:

| | |
|-------------------------|--|
| \heartsuit Q 9 5 4 | |
| \spadesuit A K Q 5 | |
| \clubsuit 2 | |
| \heartsuit A Q 10 9 | |
| | |
| \heartsuit A 6 | |
| \spadesuit J 3 | |
| \clubsuit A K Q 9 4 3 | |
| \heartsuit 8 7 6 | |

You receive a thirds and fifths $\heartsuit 3$ lead against your slam. $\heartsuit Q$ is headed by the king and your ace. "I just need diamonds to break and I have 12 tricks, you think".



Tim Bourke's daily
Test Your Play problems
Solutions overleaf



4. CERTAIN

South deals, all vulnerable

♠ 7 5 2
 ♥ A K
 ♦ Q J 6 5 2
 ♣ 6 5 2

♠ A 10 9
 ♥ 7 5 4
 ♦ A 9 7 4
 ♣ A K 4

| | | | |
|-------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|
| <i>West</i> | <i>North</i> | <i>East</i> | <i>South</i> |
| | | | 1NT |
| pass | 3NT | all pass | |

West leads ♥Q against your notrump game. How do you plan to make sure of nine tricks?

However, on the third round of diamonds, East discards a discouraging heart.

What now? No worries; you play a club, yet another chance, and West contributes ♣J, won with the queen.

You cross to ♥J, and West plays ♣K on the second round of the suit.

Just another easy 12 tricks. The full hand:

Board 17, North deals, nil vulnerable

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

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

Rons and Jons

Board 17, North deals, nil vulnerable

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

| | |
|-------------|--|
| ♠ Q 9 6 | |
| ♥ 6 4 3 | |
| ♦ Q 9 8 6 4 | |
| ♣ Q 2 | |

| | | | |
|-------------------|--------------------|------------------|-----------------|
| <i>West</i> | <i>North</i> | <i>East</i> | <i>South</i> |
| <i>Ron Cooper</i> | <i>Ron Klinger</i> | <i>Jon Free</i> | <i>Jon Hunt</i> |
| | pass | 1♣ ¹ | pass |
| 1♦ ² | pass | 1NT ³ | pass |
| 2♣ ⁴ | pass | 2♦ ⁵ | pass |
| 2NT | all pass | | |

- 15+, any
- 0-8, any
- 15-18
- Enquiry
- No five-card major

Most of the room essayed 3NT on this deal, defeated when South led a diamond, and declarer put in ♦J at trick one, headed by the king and ace.

At the table I was watching, (the Rons and the Jons), Jon Free was in 2NT. He won ♦A and played ♣A and another. Klinger won ♣K, and Free was able to claim when NS could only cash four diamond tricks.

Even if North is in at trick two (club honours reversed), it is easy to lay down ♦Q, expecting partner to contribute ♦10 if he has it. Declarer would not put ♦J in if he held ♦A10x.

Notrump range makes a difference. When Free's 1NT range was 15-18, the pair could land safely in 2NT. A 15-17 range is not so easy. West, with 8 HCP and a five-card suit, invites, and East has to decide whether the flat 16-count is minimum or maximum.

SOLUTION to Tim Bourke's Test Your Play

You have five winners outside the diamond suit. So, you need to make at least four diamond tricks. If the suit is no worse than 3-1 then any sensible play in diamonds will produce four tricks. The only danger is that diamonds are 4-0. If you play $\heartsuit Q$ after winning the first trick with $\heartsuit K$ there will be no hope of making nine on the deal below.

| | | | |
|---|--|---|--|
| \spadesuit J 6 4 \heartsuit Q J 10 3 \diamondsuit K 10 8 3 \clubsuit J 9 | \spadesuit 7 5 2 \heartsuit A K \diamondsuit Q J 6 5 2 \clubsuit 6 5 2 <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 40px; height: 40px; margin: 10px auto; display: flex; flex-direction: column; align-items: center; justify-content: center;"> N W E S </div> | \spadesuit K Q 8 3 \heartsuit 9 8 6 2 \diamondsuit -- \clubsuit Q 10 8 7 3 | \spadesuit A 10 9 \heartsuit 7 5 4 \diamondsuit A 9 7 4 \clubsuit A K 4 |
|---|--|---|--|

The way to guarantee four diamond tricks no matter how the suit lies is to cross to your hand at trick two with a club to the king and lead a low diamond towards dummy. As the suit lies here, if West takes $\diamondsuit K$ then you have your nine tricks (a spade, two hearts, four diamonds and two clubs). If West plays low then your $\diamondsuit J$ will win the trick and you can continue with $\diamondsuit A$ and another diamond. West will be limited to one trick in the suit, $\diamondsuit K$.

If it was West who had the diamond void then East will take your $\diamondsuit Q$ with $\diamondsuit K$. Say he returns a heart to dummy's now bare ace (as good as anything). Now you will lead a low diamond from dummy and finesse East's $\diamondsuit 10$, making four diamond tricks.

Reaching 2 \spadesuit (at the other table, the contract reached by Axel Johannsson – Barry Myers) was a good effort – in fact 4 \spadesuit is cold, and declarer made 10 tricks, 170 and 2 IMPs to MYERS.

Good enough to bid

Board 18, East deals, NS vulnerable

| | | | |
|--|--|--|---|
| \spadesuit K J \heartsuit 10 9 \diamondsuit A 7 6 4 \clubsuit K Q 9 8 4 | \spadesuit Q 10 8 6 5 \heartsuit K 5 3 2 \diamondsuit J \clubsuit A 10 6 <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 40px; height: 40px; margin: 10px auto; display: flex; flex-direction: column; align-items: center; justify-content: center;"> N W E S </div> | \spadesuit 9 4 3 2 \heartsuit J 8 6 \diamondsuit Q 10 8 2 \clubsuit J 7 | \spadesuit A 7 \heartsuit A Q 7 4 \diamondsuit K 9 5 3 \clubsuit 5 3 2 |
|--|--|--|---|

| West | North | East | South |
|---------------|----------------|-------------|------------------|
| <i>Cooper</i> | <i>Klinger</i> | <i>Free</i> | <i>Hunt</i> |
| | | pass | 1 \diamondsuit |
| 2 \clubsuit | dbl | pass | 2 \heartsuit |
| pass | 3 \heartsuit | pass | 4 \heartsuit |
| all pass | | | |

Another annoying saying a long ago partner would parrot: "If it's good enough to bid, it's good enough to lead".

Ron Cooper had a very difficult lead on this deal.



A spade is out, a trump seems ill-advised, $\diamondsuit A$ or a low diamond are both frowned upon leads, ergo it has to be a club. Declarer will probably go wrong on a top club, ducking the opening lead. Now West



How do you defend?

Problem 3

South deals, nil vulnerable

♠ Q 5
♥ J 10 8 4
♦ Q 5
♣ K Q 6 5 4

♠ K 9 8 7 4
♥ K
♦ A 9 7
♣ J 8 7 2



| | | | |
|------|-------|------|------------------|
| West | North | East | South |
| | | | 1NT ¹ |
| 2♠ | 3♠ | pass | 3NT |

all pass

1. 15-17

West leads ♠4: queen – three - two. Declarer plays dummy's ♥J: six – two – king.

How would you continue as West?

must lead a low club, knowing it is partner, not declarer who holds ♣J.

Now when West is in with ♠K, there are four tricks to cash. The problem is declarer can survive if he wins the first club, as the defensive club tricks are blocked after declarer draws trumps.

The only killing lead is a low club. Now we can take four tricks with ease, whatever declarer does. Find that lead, Mr Klinger!



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5 Friday, January 13

Saving is fun

Jenny Thompson obviously has a very honest face. Here is a full hand and the auction:

Board 20, West deals, all vulnerable

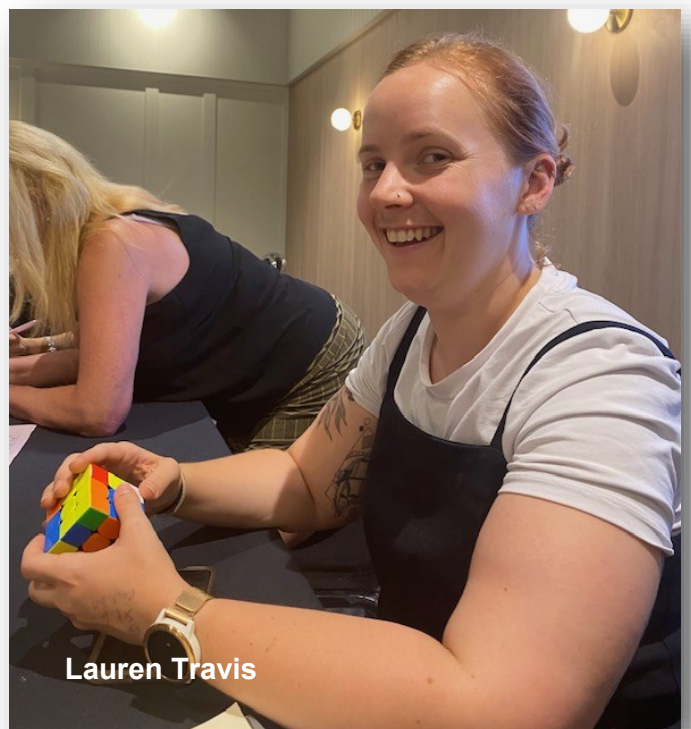
| | | |
|-------------|----------------|------------------|
| ♠ 9 | ♠ --- | ♠ A K Q J 10 8 7 |
| ♥ A J 6 4 | ♥ K Q 8 5 2 | ♥ 10 |
| ♦ 8 5 4 | ♦ A J 10 9 7 2 | ♦ --- |
| ♣ J 9 8 7 2 | ♣ 4 3 | ♣ A K Q 6 5 |

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

| | | | |
|-------|------------|----------|----------|
| West | North | East | South |
| Creet | Smederevac | Thompson | Brock |
| pass | 1♥ | 6♠ | pass |
| pass | 7♦ | dbl | all pass |

Thompson tried the effect of a 6♠ bid, not expecting North to back in at the seven-level (her RHO believed her).

This was a great decision, however, as 7♦x was only two down, -500. 14 of the 16 women's pairs were undisturbed in 6♠, while in the Seniors, one pair played 7♠, +2210, four Norths saved in 7♦, and one East was lucky enough to be doubled in 6♠, +1860.



Lauren Travis

How would you defend?

Problem 3 solution

The deal comes from the round-robin 1 match between Australia and New Zealand at the 2011 Asia-Pacific Women's Teams:

| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|--|--|--|---|--|---|--|---|--|---|--|---|
| <p>♠ K 9 8 7 4 ♥ K ♦ A 9 7 ♣ J 8 7 2</p> | <p>♠ Q 5 ♥ J 10 8 4 ♦ Q 5 ♣ K Q 6 5 4</p> | <table border="1" style="border-collapse: collapse; width: 40px; height: 40px; margin: auto;"> <tr><td></td><td>N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td></td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>S</td><td></td></tr> </table> | | N | | W | | E | | S | | <p>♠ 10 6 3 ♥ 9 7 6 ♦ K J 8 6 4 ♣ 9 3</p> |
| | N | | | | | | | | | | | |
| W | | E | | | | | | | | | | |
| | S | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | <p>♠ A J 2 ♥ A Q 5 3 2 ♦ 10 3 2 ♣ A 10</p> | | | | | | | | | | | |

After the auction given, South was in 3NT, but we would all rather be in 4♥. West led ♠4, dummy's ♠Q holding. After ♥J to ♥K, West switched to ♦7: queen – king – two. East might have wondered why South was ducking if South had ♦A.

Had East continued diamonds, 3NT would be two down. Instead, she returned ♠10. South grabbed ♠A and took nine tricks for +400.

No doubt East thought West had led ♦7 from ♦A-7 to put East on lead for a spade return. West could have saved the day. South's failure to tackle clubs was ominous. It looked as though South would have three clubs, two spades and four hearts, assuming an accurate count card in hearts from East. In that case only 4+ diamond tricks would beat 3NT.

To prevent partner from error, play ♦A and a second diamond.



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Dr Ian McCance

Hands from decades ago still ring with praise for Ian McCance:

“Bridge is one of the few competitive activities in which high-level performances are possible as you grow older. Ian McCance, a 65-year-old (now 95) lecturer in physiology who represented Australia in a world championship a quarter-century ago (1968, Deauville), did some brilliant card reading on the diagrammed deal. It was played in a tournament in Queensland earlier this year and was reported by Dick Cummings. (*New York Times*, 1993)

Ed: Ian's greatest result was at Deauville, France in 1968, where playing with Fred Altman, Australia were fifth in the 3rd World Teams Olympiad (the other four were the "Big Four", Cummings – Seres, Smilde – Howard) with Frank Cayley npc..

The hand was again featured, in 2017 in “Goren on Bridge!”

North deals, EW vulnerable

| | | | |
|----------------|---|-------------|--|
| | ♠ K J 6 5 | | |
| | ♥ A | | |
| | ♦ K Q 9 2 | | |
| | ♣ K Q 7 6 | | |
| ♠ 2 | | ♠ Q 10 9 3 | |
| ♥ Q J 8 7 | <div style="display: inline-block; background-color: #004d00; color: white; padding: 5px; text-align: center; font-weight: bold;"> N W E S </div> | ♥ K 9 4 3 2 | |
| ♦ 8 7 | | ♦ J 10 6 | |
| ♣ J 10 9 8 5 2 | | ♣ A | |
| | ♠ A 8 7 4 | | |
| | ♥ 10 6 5 | | |
| | ♦ A 5 4 3 | | |
| | ♣ 4 3 | | |

| West | North | East | South |
|----------|-------|------|-------|
| | 1♣ | dbl | 1♦ |
| 1♥ | 3♦ | Pass | 5♦ |
| all pass | | | |

Opening lead: ♠2

Many would not agree with some of the bidding decisions, but this deal was bid as shown when it was played in Australia in 1993.

South was Victorian expert Ian McCance.



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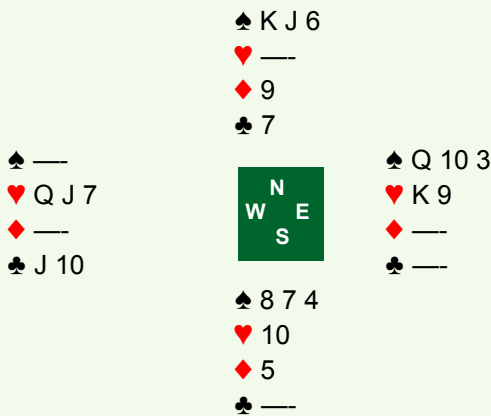
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The opening spade lead was almost certainly a singleton. McCance won in hand with the ace and drew trumps in three rounds, ending in hand. Time to think. The opponents had just 14 high-card points between them, and West must have a few of them for his free bid.

That meant East had made a very light takeout double. McCance decided that East must have a singleton club and it was probably the ace.

Backing his judgment with his play, McCance led a low club from his hand and also played low from dummy. The fall of the ace was a relief, but the contract was still far from safe. South won the heart shift with dummy's ace and cashed the king and queen of clubs. This was the position:



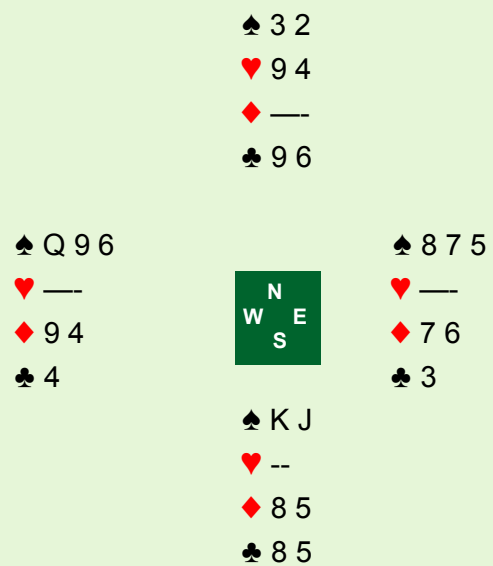
♣7 was led and East had to discard a heart, or else a second spade could be set up. Declarer ruffed the club and then ruffed his last heart. McCance then led dummy's six of spades. East won, but had to lead a spade into dummy's king-jack at the end. Well played!

♠ THE BRIDGE SHOP

Solution to double dummy problem 2

South leads a club and East is already in trouble but discards a heart. South now leads a heart and plays dummy's last club. It doesn't matter what East throws. If he throws a spade, he is thrown in with a spade next. If a diamond, West is endplayed in hearts to lead to dummy's now good diamonds.

Double Dummy Problem 3



South to lead with hearts trumps - NS to win all six tricks. Solution in tomorrow's bulletin.

This problem is from **A Compendium of Double Dummy Problems** by Hugh Darwen, available from **The Bridge Shop** [here](#).





Cliff Wake playoff at youth bridge week: Susan Humphries and baby George, Liam Milne, Jessica Brake, Renee Cooper, Jamie Thompson, Andrew Spooner, Mitch Dowling and Alan Stoneham, won by the Challenge team

New Books reviewed by Paul Lavings

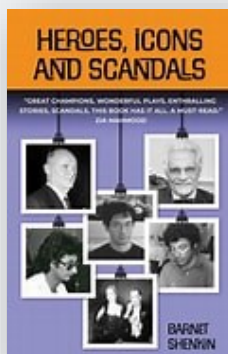
Counting at Bridge
by Dianne Aves
\$32.95 (168 pages)

Bridge teachers emphasize to their students the importance of counting -- points, distribution, tricks, and so on. But it's hard to teach and even harder to learn, let alone assimilate to the point where counting becomes automatic as one is playing. This book introduces the concept of counting for newer players and helps them to begin acquiring a skill that is critical to their becoming better players.



Heroes, Icons and Scandals
by Barnet Shenkin \$39.95 (200 pages)

20 years ago, Barnet Shenkin's 'Playing with the Bridge Legends' gave its readers a fascinating insight into what it is like to play with and against the best in the game. In some ways this book is a sequel to that -- it focuses on the great characters in the history of bridge, both the heroes and those subject

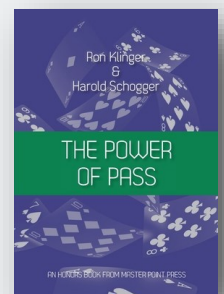


to scandal.

Including chapters on Culbertson, Belladonna, Garozzo and Zia, the book also provides behind-the-scenes accounts of the cheating scandals in Stockholm, Bermuda and Buenos Aires involving Reese, Schapiro and the Italian Blue Team. Like the first book, the author also draws on his own experiences at the very top of the game. The reader joins the author at the table, gaining a sense of exactly how it feels to 'play with the bridge legends'.

The Power of Pass
by Ron Klinger and Harold Schogger \$24.95 (96 pages)

Is someone holding a gun to your head?



These days, most players bid too much -- they hope their opponents will misdefend or will bid too much themselves. This book shows you how you can often do better simply by passing. There are many auctions where 'pass' is the winning call, and you will find them here, illustrated by real-life deals from the club level to international championships.



27th Barrier Reef Congress

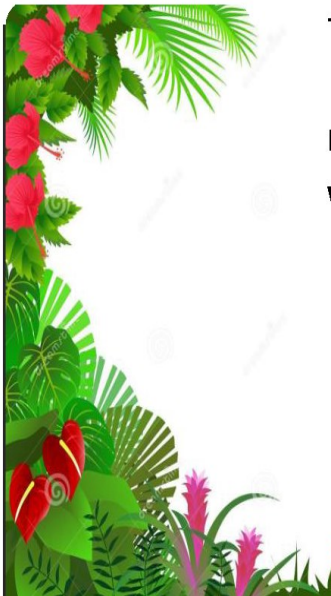
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