



Tuesday 10 - Sunday 22 January, 2023

Final rounds of the NOT



Bulletin 10

Thursday January 19

Results

Submissions to Editor, Stephen Lester

Stylistics

What is your style? Are you cautious and hesitant? Are you bold and aggressive. Pessimistic or optimistic?

The wildly different decisions I see reflect the personality of the players, especially at a top level. Sometimes risky decisions are to be rued, while other times they reap rewards.

This is the first deal I watched, on Traian Chira's great camera system, which features eight cameras, focussed on top tables playing live and recording picture and sound files.

Board 2, East deals, NS vulnerable

<p>♠ K Q J 6</p> <p>♥ Q 4</p> <p>♦ 10 9 2</p> <p>♣ K 8 5 2</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>♠ A 3 2</p> <p>♥ A K 10 9 3</p> <p>♦ A 8</p> <p>♣ A Q 7</p>	<p>♠ 8 5 4</p> <p>♥ J 8 6</p> <p>♦ K J 7 4 3</p> <p>♣ J 3</p>
	N											
W		E										
	S											

West <i>Rodrigo</i>	North <i>GeO</i>	East <i>Juzz</i>	South <i>Nick</i>
3♦	dbl	2♦ all pass	pass

West <i>Tony</i>	North <i>Liam</i>	East <i>Paul</i>	South <i>James</i>
2♠ pass	dbl 4♥	2♦ 3♠ all pass	pass pass



Juzz and Rodrigo

At the top tables, where the players often emulate what they think might happen at the other table, actions might seem strange to the less adventurous of us.

NS for LEIBOWITZ were GeO Tislevoll—Nick Jacob, with Rodrigo Garcia Da Rosa—Justin Howard EW.

The ZIGGY NS were Liam Milne—James Coutts, with Tony Nunn—Paul Dalley EW.

Both Easts opened 2♦, presumably a weak two in diamonds, although some of you will ask where the sixth diamond is (or the fourth card if it is a two-suiter). But at this vulnerability, anything goes.

The two auctions had a surprisingly different outcome. At the table where Rodrigo raised the pre-empt, Nick Jacob passed the takeout double with no hesitation, and LEIBOWITZ scored +500, 12 IMPs. At the other table, Liam bid a practical

but unfortunate 4♥. With a near useless dummy he struggled to make eight tricks -200.

So the change of suit, 2♠ and the raise to 3♠ over the double worked while the simple raise of a suit did not.


Was the 4♥ bid found by Liam Milne rash and aggressive? Would a double have been passed out by James Coutts (NS can make eight tricks in spades).

I'll leave it to you for further analysis.

The second deal shows that the NS style of aggression and confidence earned dividends.

Liam and James bid to 6♥ with confidence on the deal below, which makes because the club suit comes in for four tricks. Slam was not bid in the other room, giving ZIGGY 12 IMPs. You will see there was a large proportion of NS pairs who did not reach slam.

Match 7, Board 15, South deals, NS vulnerable

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

James Coutts won the diamond lead in hand and led a round of trumps, which Paul Dalley won with the ace. He returned ♠10.

James rose ace and played a round of trumps. He cashed ♣A,K, noting Tony Nunn's ♣10 on the sec-



Tony Leibowitz

ond round, ruffed a club, then discarded two spades on dummy's ♦KQ. Ending with a trump to hand, James could ruff a spade in dummy (he had been able to discard all dummy's spades on the clubs) and claim.

12 IMPs to ZIGGY.

While there were many IMPs changing hands in the match, the final result of the match was 4 IMPs to ZIGGY.

Here's the frequency table for Board 15

Contract	Result	Score	Frequency
6♥ by NS	=	1430	12
6♥ by NS	=	1430	6
5♥ by NS	+1	680	5
5♥ by NS	+1	680	4
4♥ by NS	+2	680	6
4♥ by NS	+2	680	31
4♥ by NS	+1	650	1
4♥ by NS	+1	650	3
3NT by NS	+1	630	1
4♥ by NS	=	620	2
4♥ by NS	=	620	1
4♥ by NS	-1	-100	1
6♥ by NS	-1	-100	1

**Tim Bourke's daily
Test Your Play problems
Solutions overleaf**



10 FAVOURITE

South deals, NS vulnerable

NORTH

♠ A 8 6 4
♥ J 6 5 2
♦ K 7 2
♣ Q 5

SOUTH

♠ 2
♥ A K 7 4 3
♦ A 5 3
♣ A K 6 2

West	North	East	South
			1♠
pass	3♠	pass	6♠
All pass			

In the bidding, there was no point in wasting time with a key card ask on the South cards. The hand is strong enough to warrant driving to 6♥.

West leads ♠Q, which you take in dummy with ♠A. When you lead a low trump at trick two,

East plays ♥8 and you win with ♥K. The bad news is that West discards a spade.

What plan gives you the best chance of making your contract?

Online bridge

Ed: Megan McGlashan, long time Summer Festival visitor from Sydney responds to my opinion in yesterday's bulletin about face-to-face and online bridge (face-to-face my preference).

Could not agree more, Stephen! Quite apart from my own preferences, the years I spent directing convinced me that to many people, bridge is their only social activity. Bridge clubs provide a place

for people of all ages, colours and creeds to go for mental and social activity, and many would be completely bereft without this escape from a limited and often lonely life. These are the people who pay their club dues and ABF memberships, thus supporting the international players.

As far as top competition is concerned, again face to face must have a huge advantage over online when it comes to, if nothing else, judgement of one's opponents. Surely this is a normal part of any sport,

While there is definitely a place for online bridge, especially as in Covid type times, for the players who are unable to go to clubs and/or congresses and even those who prefer online, face to face will always be the winner for me for so many reasons.

Megan McGlashan, Sydney

Vale Denis Howard

Ben Thompson, our executive on the World Bridge Federation reports that there have been a number of messages of condolence for Denis, including past and present Presidents of the World Bridge Federation.

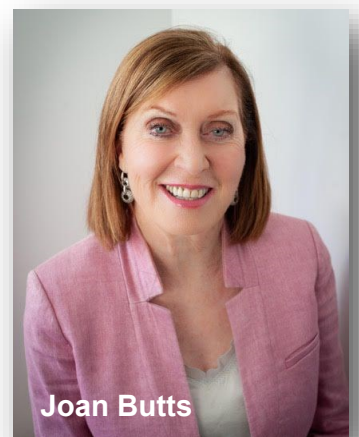
What year is it?

by Michael Courtney

♠ K J 3 2
♥ Q 10 3
♦ Q 6 5
♣ J 5 4

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
<i>Joan Butts</i>	<i>Justin Mill</i>	<i>YOU</i>	<i>Rodrigo</i>
		Pass	1♠
2NT	3♠	Pass	Pass
4♦	Pass	?	

Partner's bidding suggests a jolly good hand with six diamonds and five clubs. The minor suit honours are quite valuable. Partner could cross to either to take a finesse in the other minor. In the end I passed. WRONG!



SOLUTION to *Tim Bourke's Test Your Play*

What you hope to do is to make the next eight tricks. Your plan should be to end up with ♥J-6 and a spade in dummy while you have ♥K-7 and a minor suit card in hand while East has ♥Q-10-9 left. Then, after you play your plain suit cards to the next trick, East will have to ruff in and then lead away from ♥Q-10.

If East has only two spades, he can ruff the third round of spades with ♥9 to guarantee that he makes two trump tricks. Similarly, if he can ruff a minor suit winner the contract will fail. So, if East is not to escape this mooted ending, he needs 3+ spades, 2+ diamonds and 3+ clubs. As you will have to ruff a minor suit card in dummy to reduce dummy's trumps, the distributions you can succeed against are therefore 3=4=3=3 or 3=4=2=4. The former is more likely in the ratio of 5 to 3.

So, assume that East began with a 3=4=3=3 distribution, as here:

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

The winning play will be something along the lines of ♣2 to ♣Q in dummy and ♠4 ruffed low. Then ♣A-K, throwing a diamond from dummy. A diamond to the king allows you to ruff a second spade before you cash ♦A and ruff a diamond.

This will leave you in a three-card ending and you will now lead ♠8 from dummy and throw your losing club as East ruffs.

Now dummy's ♥J will take a trick, no matter which card East plays to trick 12.

Partner held ♠---, ♥75, ♦AJ10872, ♣AKQ107 and ♣J provided entry for the diamond hook and 11 tricks.

And I recognised that hand. Hubert Phillips, the great British writer recommended opening 5♦ in the late sixties on just about this hand. Was it "Bridge with Dora?" Certainly it was an instructive volume with the fictional premise of the author teaching a young lady.

Then in a NOT near the turn of the century. My sister Jill held roughly that hand in a knock-out match against a Markey-de-Sade line-up and heard RHO open 2♥. 2♥ generously promised 0-10 hcp and 4-4 in the majors.

I'll give you a thousand guesses. JC passed without demur and 2♥ was the final contract. Her partner, Tania Lloyd had a 6421 hand and the contract failed miserably. Tanya showed the deal to Peter Gill and me. We were gibbering.



Tania Lloyd

We enquired gently. Pass is so obvious, Jill explained. If these copulating gentlemen have a fit, they will jump to three or four of a major, THEN I'll bid 4NT with every hope of success. But if they pass it will always be a horrible misfit.

Tanya, Peter and I were all advocates of an immediate 4NT, which has been widely played for the minors this century. Certainly, it is unsound in one sense, but it achieves two vital objectives. Firstly, it accurately describes the hand; secondly it removes all the bidding space from the opponents.

I tried 4NT for the minors once myself, and set a world record.

How would you defend?

Problem 9

West deals, all vulnerable

♠ A K 7
♥ K Q 10 9
♦ 7 4 3 2
♣ J 7

♠ ---

♥ A 5 4 2

♦ A J 9 6

♣ A K Q 10 8



West	North	East	South
1♣	dbl	pass	4♠
dbl1	all pass		

1. Takeout

West leads ♣K, followed by ♣A, ruffed by South. ♠4 goes to ♠A, ♠2 from East, and declarer plays ♥K : three (reverse count) – eight from South. What should West do?

I was playing with the delightful Howard Cohen, who loved to psyche and to false card. He always insisted that 4NT over their opening was for the minors. I had my doubts, as I love Blackwooding, but finally I agreed to try it at the first opportunity.

There we sat like the Rabbit and the Walrus, itching to try our new convention. The game was Goulash, so the deals were wild. We faced the strong English players David Price and Colin Simpson.

I held:

♠ ---

♥ ---

♦ 10 9 8 6 5 3 2

♣ Q 10 9 8 7 6

Howard passed, and Colin opened 1♥. It was Chicago scoring, so sacrificing at favourable was profitable. I overcalled 4NT, knowing how pleased Howard would be. David doubled and Howard froze. He had passed with a balanced 14-count including ♥AQ10x. After a long period seeking inspiration, he raised me to 7NT. When that was doubled he redoubled.

I think -5400 is the score. There was an argument after the deal.

Colin started it “What on earth are you doing, Howard?” “Yes” said David sternly. Even the Manager, Lionel Wright joined in.



Lionel Wright

“You guys can talk”

I reposted “two small mammals could have organised the double squeeze to shoot it 12! “

“I’m sorry” said Howard “I forgot” and I was sorry I’d remembered.



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How would you defend?

Problem 9 solution

The deal comes from the 2015 European Open Teams:

West deals, all vulnerable

<p>♠ --- ♥ A 5 4 2 ♦ A J 9 6 ♣ A K Q 10 8</p>	<div style="background-color: #2e7d32; color: white; padding: 5px; margin: 0 auto; width: 40px; height: 40px; display: flex; flex-direction: column; align-items: center; justify-content: center;"> N W E S </div>	<p>♠ 10 8 2 ♥ 7 3 ♦ Q 8 5 ♣ 9 6 5 4 3</p>	<p>♠ A K 7 ♥ K Q 10 9 ♦ 7 4 3 2 ♣ J 7</p> <p>♠ Q J 9 6 5 4 3 ♥ J 8 6 ♦ K 10 ♣ 2</p>
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When West took ♥A at once and played ♣Q, South ruffed in dummy, discarding a diamond, drew trumps and had 11 tricks, +990.

To beat 4♠x, West had to duck ♥K. If declarer plays another heart, West can win and give East a heart ruff. A diamond switch then takes declarer two down. If West ducks ♥K and declarer draws trumps, West must duck the second heart, win the third, play a club and come to two diamond tricks later.



John Russell, proprietor of the Rex Hotel with Convener Ian Thomson



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Deb Beale and team

I was delighted to be introduced to Deb Beale, playing the Under 750/300 Teams with Diana Heggie, Glenda Lewin and Mary Hawkins.



Deb is Felicity Beale's daughter, and on meeting her, I recognised the same wit, warmth and fun our late friend emanated.

Deb admits she hasn't yet reached the lofty heights of her illustrious mother, but her day will come.

Deb played 500 with Felicity and her late Dad Julian, who learned bridge but stayed in the background once it was obvious who the bridge player in the family was. Felicity represented Australia in international competition for many years.

Felicity vetoed any exposure to bridge for Deb and Jenny, Deb's sister, saying it would be like playing table tennis with a three-year old.

Deb misses her mother every day. I noticed her ring, a beautiful diamond and pearl combo which instantly reminded me of her mother.

Deb and the other women have been learning with top teacher Justin Mill, so with Juzz as coach, I expect to see the team improve in leaps and bounds.

Lose an IMP? Maybe, maybe not

by Ron Klinger

Round 8, Board 11, South deals, nil vulnerable

<p>♠ A 10 7 6 5 3 ♥ Q 2 ♦ Q 5 4 ♣ Q 8</p>	<p>♠ --- ♥ A 9 8 7 3 ♦ A J 10 8 3 2 ♣ A 7</p> <div style="text-align: center; border: 1px solid black; width: 40px; height: 40px; margin: 0 auto; display: flex; flex-direction: column; align-items: center; justify-content: center;"> N W E S </div>	<p>♠ 8 4 ♥ J 5 4 ♦ K 7 6 ♣ K J 9 4 3</p>	<p>♠ K Q J 9 2 ♥ K 10 6 ♦ 9 ♣ 10 6 5 2</p>
---	---	--	--

West	North	East	South
			pass
pass	1♦	pass	1♠
pass	2♥	pass	2NT
pass	3♥	pass	4♥
all pass			

After the lead of a club to the queen and ace, Ron Klinger cashed ♦A and ruffed a diamond, followed by ♠K, covered with the ace and ruffed. A further diamond ruff, setting up the diamonds was fol-

lowed by ♠Q, as Ron discarded his losing club from hand.

Now, as a safety play, Ron led ♥K, overtaking with the ace, and reverting to the established diamonds. This let the opposition score their hearts separately, but the score was still +420.

Ron was expecting to lose an IMP, but instead scored a bonanza, when 4♥ played from the South hand was one down at the other table.

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Solution to double dummy problem 7

South plays the Queen of Hearts, playing the Ace from dummy even if West does not cover. Now a trump and West has no good discard.

Grosvenored (again)

Match 9, Board 7, South deals, all vulnerable

<p>♠ J 8 ♥ Q 5 3 ♦ 9 8 7 6 3 ♣ Q 6 4</p> <p>♠ K Q 7 6 3 ♥ A K 8 ♦ K Q ♣ K 10 3</p>	<p>♠ 10 5 2 ♥ J 7 4 ♦ 4 ♣ A 9 8 7 5 2</p> <p>♠ A 9 4 ♥ 10 9 6 2 ♦ A J 10 5 2 ♣ J</p>
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David Appleton reported himself. The bidding had been 2NT – 3NT, and David led ♦9. This meant declarer needed six club tricks.

Declarer Grosvenored David by playing ♣10 from hand at trick two. David covered, playing for a blockage problem when declarer had ♣KJ10.

This was seen to be a bad idea when the queen and the jack hit the deck together.

Declarer had offered to go down, but David refused the offer.

Double Dummy Problem 8

NORTH

♠ Q 8 3
♥ 8
♦ 6 4
♣ —

♠ J 7

♥ —

♦ 5 3

♣ K 6

♠ 6 4

♥ —

♦ J 8

♣ J 8

SOUTH

♠ 9

♥ 9

♦ Q 7

♣ Q 7

South to lead with spades as trumps - NS to win all remaining six tricks.

Solution in tomorrow's bulletin. This problem is taken from **A Compendium of Double Dummy Problems** by Hugh Darwen, available from **The Bridge Shop** [here](#).



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Problem 5

Another deal from the Mixed Playoffs, 2022

What do you do?

Board 15, Set, 5 quarter finals

South deals, NS vulnerable

You are West, with ♠K73, ♥AK65, ♦A97, ♣AK3

South opens 3♠ in front of you. What do you bid?

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

The playoff results were:

6♥ (E) +50

3NT (W) - 520

4♥ (E) -450

6♥ (E) - 50

My view: West would prefer a double to 3NT with such a strong hand, but there is always the risk that partner won't know what to bid, and you've gone past 3NT. (All Wests bid 3NT). On this hand East has the lovely long heart suit, and it would be natural to look for slam over a double of 3♠. Bridge is cruel sometimes, and here the timid bidders were rewarded when the very good 6♥ fails on a spade ruff after ♠A is led and spades are continued.

BUT...no one thought of 6NT, which makes! Should you think about it? I certainly think so with West's ♠K73. Please send your opinion and a suggested bidding sequence to me (Joan Butts) via Stephen at sleksix@gmail.com



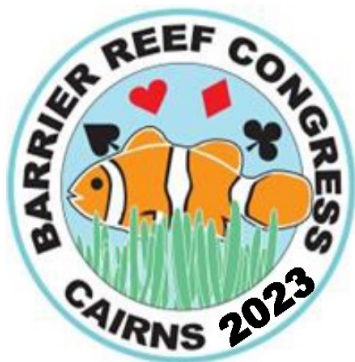
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