



Tuesday 10 - Sunday 22 January, 2023

National Open Teams begins



Bulletin 11

Friday January 20

Results

High level decisions

West deals, all vulnerable

West	North	East	South
Pass	1♥	6♠	Pass
Pass	?		

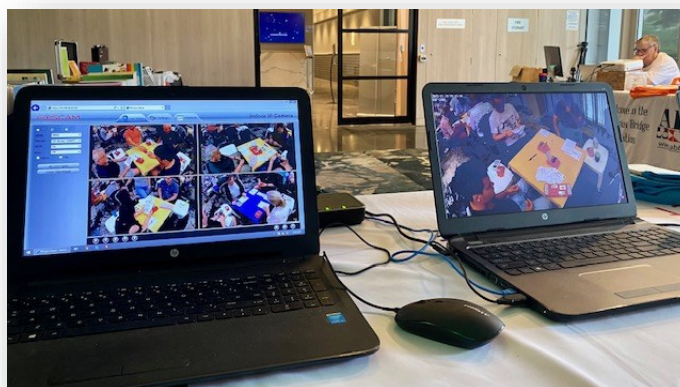
What would you do as North with:

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

Answer on page 2

Easy kibitzing

I tried kibitzing a match online yesterday, first watching only one table, then both, and I could have watched the action from all eight cameras mounted at the tables in the playing room.



It was almost as good as being at the table, with decent clarity and the ability to scroll around and zoom in and out. Despite the PCs in use being older and the cameras not expensive, overall, a great asset for bridge and bridge enthusiasts, and it was especially appreciated to be able to watch two tables at the same time.

Submissions to Editor, Stephen Lester

Board 2, East deals, NS vulnerable

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



The hand analysis program shows 11 tricks are possible in 4♥ or 4♠, so it was surprising that 19 declarers went down in 4♠ (the only denomination played by NS), with South opening 1♠.

What is your line of play after ♣K, ♣Q from West?

The line to 11 tricks is to double finesse in spades, where you will get five spade tricks in hand, four hearts, ♦A and a diamond ruff. You will win the second club, play a heart to one of dummy's top honours and a spade to the nine or 10.

A second heart to the other top honour, followed by another spade finesse and drawing of the last trump. Now give up a heart and ruff a diamond for 11 tricks.



Should you try to play on crossruff lines, you should succeed as long as you get spades right.

I was asked how you could go down. That's easy – you can lose a trump, a heart, a diamond and a club if you unwisely (delete that foolishly, Stephen!) take a diamond finesse.

If you count winners, you can do the exercise: four trumps, four hearts, one diamond and a diamond ruff. That allows for a trump loser and a 3-2 break in hearts.

The Highly Unusual 6NT

by Terry Brown, Sydney

This was the full deal, which arose in Round 8 of the National Women's Teams and National Seniors' Teams:

Board 20, West deals, all vulnerable

<p>♠ 9 ♥ A J 6 4 ♦ 8 5 4 ♣ J 9 8 7 2</p>	<div style="background-color: #006400; color: white; padding: 5px; display: inline-block; margin: 0 auto;"> N W E S </div>	<p>♠ --- ♥ K Q 8 5 2 ♦ A J 10 9 7 2 ♣ 4 3</p>	<p>♠ A K Q J 10 8 7 ♥ 10 ♦ --- ♣ A K Q 6 5</p>
		<p>♠ 6 5 4 3 2 ♥ 9 7 3 ♦ K Q 6 3 ♣ 10</p>	



Michael Courtney was North and I was South.

The complete auction:

West	North	East	South
Pass	1♥	6♠	Pass
Pass	6NT!!	Pass	7♦
dbl	all pass		

Had I bid 7♣, Michael would have bid 7♦, asking me to choose between 7♦ and 7♥.

When dummy appeared with that excellent diamond holding, Michael said, "Your blood is worth bottling." Michael was -500 for +14 IMPs vs 6S +1460 at the other table.

I have never seen 6NT used as the Unusual Notrump. Have you?

Ed: If you played the Women's or Seniors Teams, this would be a hand you might remember! Ron Klinger showed a sensational way to better show the East hand in Bulletin 4, page 5.

Correct history by Peter Jamieson

Hi Stephen,

I have been enjoying your bulletins this week. Some nice hands as well as general bridge news about people and bridge history.

I detected a slight error in Bulletin #1 Page 2 about the Lakeside Hotel.

The Lakeside Hotel opened in November 1972 (see Wikipedia). The Ninth ACT Bridge Association January Congress was held at the Lakeside International Hotel on Friday 26— Monday 29th January 1973.

My bridge scrapbook shows that The Open Teams qualifying was on Saturday evening at 8pm and the final was at 2:30pm on the Sunday. The movement was American Whist League and the result was a dead heat between Paul Puusaari, Mrs Pat Webster, Bill Westwood and myself and Jim Borin and Norma Borin, Michael and Joan Kent, with a countback giving a win to the Puusaari team.

Bill Westwood sadly passed away last year: the link to an article about Bill is at <https://www.northshore.bridge-club.org/node/2334>



2. CAUTION

North deals, EW vulnerable

NORTH

- ♠ A Q 10 8 6
- ♥ A Q 9 5
- ♦ 8
- ♣ J 10 8

SOUTH

- ♠ K 5
- ♥ K 10 8 6 4
- ♦ A 2
- ♣ A 7 5 2

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
	1♠	pass	2♥
pass	4♦	pass	4NT
pass	5♠	pass	5NT
pass	6♥	all pass	

North's 4♦ was a splinter bid, promising a diamond shortage and heart support. You then drove to the small slam in hearts via key card enquiries.

West leads ♦J. After winning this with ♦A, you cash ♥A and all follow. How do you plan to take another 10 tricks?

Team BOUGHEY

During the break after Round 10, I saw a team chatting at their table. NZ mother and daughter pair Carol Richardson and Andi Boughey (married to top NZ international Matt Brown), are often regular faces at the National Women's Teams. I asked Carol why they weren't present this year, and she replied that she considered this year's women's event an "Aussie trial". It is the first time in my memory that playoffs have ensued from the placings in the Swiss, making ineligible teams unable to play in the semi finals and beyond.

I have known Keiran Crowe-Mai, in the past a NSW bridge administrator, ever since I first lived in Sydney 33 years ago. I believe 33 years is a mile-

stone year for Keiran, as he has been in the same job for 33 years. Gold pen coming up one day, Keiran!

He is in partnership with Lakshmi Sunderasan, a home club member at Hunters Hill BC. I asked Keiran and Lakshmi, a delightful young lady, how they came to be playing together. Keiran told me he had received a text message from Lakshmi, asking him to play at 11.30pm on December 8. Having turned down his regular partner, he said no, but by 10am he had reconsidered.

Lakshmi and Kieran got through to Round 10 with few problems (the team was lying in fourth spot after Round 9). Round 10 was a real partnership test for EW, with wild shapes and difficult decisions abounding.

Make the correct lead or fail

What is your lead against 3NT from ♠K1072, ♥A862, ♦1076, ♣K7.

Your RHO has shown a strong hand, opening 1♣, reversing into diamonds over LHO's 1♥ bid, and then bidding 3NT over LHO's 3♦ bid.

Board 12, West deals, NS vulnerable

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♠ J 6 5 3 ♥ J 10 5 3 ♦ A 9 8 4 ♣ 10 	<table border="1" style="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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♠ Q 9 ♥ K Q 7 4 ♦ 3 2 ♣ 8 6 5 4 2
	N										
W		E									
	S										
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♠ K 10 7 2 ♥ A 8 6 2 ♦ 10 7 6 ♣ K 7 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♠ A 8 4 ♥ 9 ♦ K Q J 5 ♣ A Q J 9 3 									

SOLUTION to Tim Bourke's Test Your Play

If this came up at the table, I like to think that everyone would make 12 tricks on this layout

<p>♠ A Q 10 8 6 ♥ A Q 9 5 ♦ 8 ♣ J 10 8</p> <p>♠ J 9 7 4 3 ♥ 2 ♦ Q J 10 3 ♣ K 9 6</p> <p>♠ K 5 ♥ K 10 8 6 4 ♦ A 2 ♣ A 7 5 2</p>	<p>♠ 2 ♥ J 7 3 ♦ K 9 7 6 5 4 ♣ Q 4 3</p>
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After drawing trumps and playing ♠K followed by ♠5 you should make sure of your contract by covering West's spade pip with the ten. On this layout, the ten will win the trick and you will claim your contract.

If instead you played ♠A or ♠Q on the second round of spades, you would no longer be able to make 12 tricks.

You may ask "What would happen if it was West who discarded on the second round of spades?" The best chance is that East has ♣KQx(x) without the nine or a doubleton ♣Kx or ♣Qx. So, you would lead ♣J from dummy next: if the jack is covered, win the ace and then lead a low club and play dummy's eight unless West produces ♣9. (If trumps were 2-2, you would ruff a diamond before playing on spades, so that East would be end-played if he began with ♣K9 or ♣Q9 doubleton and would have to concede a ruff and discard). If ♣J loses to ♣K or ♣Q with West, play ♣A after regaining the lead and hope for the best.

The opening lead on this deal better be a low spade to get the EW defence rolling. ♠9 forces the ace, and when declarer plays a club towards the 10, West has to rise, playing a second spade to East's queen. A low heart shift to West's ace means West can cash ♠K before EW cash two more hearts.

A passive diamond lead, however, puts South in a good position. He wins a diamond cheaply and



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runs ♣10. As on the suggested lead, West has to win ♣K, but declarer has nine tricks before EW can get five.

I didn't watch the match, so my analysis of the auction and play is a fiction. However, West did lead a diamond against Ben Thompson's 3NT and he scored nine tricks for 12 IMPs.

I had 12 tricks . . .

Round 8, Board 13, West deals, NS vulnerable

<p>♠ Q 5 ♥ K Q 9 6 ♦ Q 8 6 5 4 3 ♣ 7</p>	<p>♠ A K J 7 6 4 2 ♥ J 8 5 ♦ J 7 ♣ J</p> <div style="border: 2px solid green; width: 40px; height: 40px; margin: 0 auto; display: flex; align-items: center; justify-content: center;"> <div style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg); font-size: 8px;">N</div> <div style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg); font-size: 8px;">W</div> <div style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg); font-size: 8px;">E</div> <div style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg); font-size: 8px;">S</div> </div>	<p>♠ 9 8 3 ♥ 10 4 3 2 ♦ 10 9 ♣ K 9 8 2</p>
<p>♠ 10 ♥ A 7 ♦ A K 2 ♣ A Q 10 6 5 4 3</p>		

David Hoffman reports a slam hand where the 12th trick he had planned on evaporated, which meant he had to plan a squeeze instead.

In 6♠, on the lead of ♦10, David won in dummy and ran ♠10. When that won, he cashed ♣A, and played ♣Q! That was ruffed with ♠Q, and now David was in trouble.

How would you defend?

Problem 10

East deals, all vulnerable

West	North	East	South
		pass	pass
1♦	dbl	pass	2NT
pass	3NT	all pass	

What would you lead as West from:

♠ A J 5 4
♥ J 3
♦ A Q 10 7 5
♣ 10 2



David Hoffman

He drew trumps and ducked a heart to West. West returned a small heart to the ace. This meant that David could ruff a club and run the spades for a double squeeze.

This was the two-card ending with West yet to play:

♠ ---	♠ ---	♠ ---
♥ K	♥ J	♥ ---
♦ Q 8	♦ J	♦ 9
♣ ---	♣ ---	♣ K
	♠ ---	
	♥ ---	
	♦ A 2	
	♣ ---	

Thin trump fit

If it was entertainment I was looking for, I'd head for Jimmy Wallis' table every time. No matter the time, the country or the partner, something's bound to happen.

Longtime friend Richard Webb, Jimmy's senior kibitzer knows this, and he was treated to the following spectacle after Jimmy pulled out the wrong card from the bidding box.

Board 16, West deals, EW vulnerable

		♠ 6		
		♥ K 10 9 7 6 4 2		
		♦ Q 9 7 4		
		♣ 2		
♠ A 10 4 3 2			♠ K J 9 8 5	
♥ 3			♥ ---	
♦ K J 8			♦ A 10 6 3	
♣ A K 10 5			♣ Q 9 8 4	
		♠ Q 7		
		♥ A Q J 8 5		
		♦ 5 2		
		♣ J 7 6 3		
West	North	East	South	
1♠	3♦!!	4♥	all pass	

I suspect the only one at the table who didn't know 4♥ was a splinter was West. Declarer bravely cashed his four tricks, but that was to be it, as there were no more tricks to follow.

Jimmy and Richard carefully omitted to comment that West's trump support was inadequate. Even Jimmy hasn't seen a 0-1 trump fit before.

Richard used to man Paul Lavings' stall at major tournaments, and his presence around the venues is missed.



How would you defend?

Problem 10 solution

The deal comes from the 2018 South West Pacific Teams in Canberra.

East deals, all vulnerable

West	North	East	South
		pass	pass
1♦	dbl	pass	2NT
pass	3NT	all pass	

What would you lead as West from:

♠ AJ54, ♥ J3, ♦ AQ1075, ♣ 102

A major suit lead does not appeal, as North figures to have the majors. A club lead might set up some winners for partner, but if partner has any high card in clubs, partner is unlikely to have an outside entry as well. After all, you have 12 HCP and they have bid game. That leaves a diamond as your best choice. The next question is which diamond should you choose?

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

Datum: NS 310. There were 29 declarers in 3NT, with 23 successful. On a low diamond lead, declarer can win trick 1 with dummy's ♦J. Then, to try to keep East off lead, declarer plays ♣K, followed by ♣J. With ♠A almost certainly with West for the 1♦ opening, ♣Q is East's only potential entry. After ♣K, then ♣J, whether East ducks or covers, declarer has five club tricks and makes 3NT easily, probably with overtricks.

As South bid 3NT, ♦K is highly likely to be with South. As North doubled 1♦, North figures to be short in diamonds. Given North's takeout double,

the actual layout is much more likely than North having ♦J-x-x and declarer ♦K-x. At one table, West produced the killing lead of ♦Q. South took ♦K and finessed ♣J. East won and returned a diamond. West won, cashed three more diamonds and ♠A for two down, EW +200, +13 IMPs vs. 3NT +630 at the other table.

Five other Wests led ♦Q against 3NT. Three collected +200 and +13 IMPs. One was +200, +7 IMPs (NS +110 in 2♣ at the other table). One South made nine tricks in 3NT, +600, even after ♦Q lead.

As ♠A is a certain entry, leading ♦A, followed by ♦Q is a good choice. Only one West led ♦A against 3NT, but declarer made 10 tricks despite that. A low diamond works if East has ♦J-x and South has ♦K-x-x-x, but ♦Q works not only on the actual layout, but also if dummy has ♦J bare and South has ♦K-x or ♦K-x-x.



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THE BRIDGE SHOP

Double Dummy Problem 9

NORTH

♠ A J 4
♥ Q 8 4
♦ A
♣

♠ K 8
♥ K
♦ 9
♣ K 8 6

♠ 9 6
♥ J 7 2
♦ 4
♣ 9

SOUTH

♠ Q 7
♥ A 9
♦ -
♣ Q J 3

South to lead with spades as trumps - North-South to win the remaining seven tricks. Solution in tomorrow's bulletin.

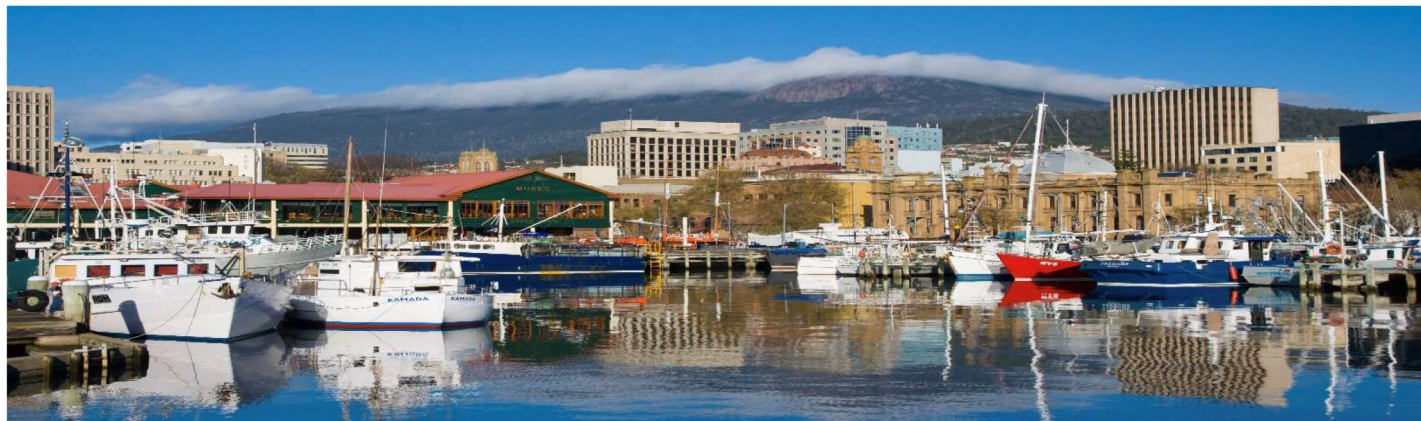
This problem is taken from **A Compendium of Double Dummy Problems** by Hugh Darwin, available from **The Bridge Shop** [here](#).



SOLUTION TO DOUBLE DUMMY PROBLEM 8

South plays a trump, running the nine if West does not cover. Now, ♣Q, ruffed if covered or run if West does not play the King. ♠Q draws the last trump and South throws the blocking ♥9. Now the heart squeezes East. Not covering ♣Q only delays a similar ending.

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