



Cambs & Hunts Bridge



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The next newsletter is scheduled to appear on **30th September**. Please try to get copy to us no later than **15th September**. All contributions welcome!



The Cambridge club has decided to purchase a 'Duplimate' dealing machine and boards. Copies of each evening's hands should thus soon be available.

This newsletter, and past issues also, can be found on the County Web page, whose URL is given above.



In this issue Peter Burrows concludes his trilogy of 'detective stories,' while Paul Barden gave me a special squeeze for my birthday. Chris Jagger offers advice on defence against preempts, and which card to lead from AK. A somewhat harder collection of opening leads comprises a new competition. Bill Briscombe complains while holding 25 counts and Sally Dempster writes to Aunt Agony. There is the usual round-up of News and Events.



End position

It's rare both to be absolutely certain how the last 12 cards are distributed AND to be able to do something clever with the knowledge. But when it happens, why, it's almost as good as playing chess.

See if you can cope with the ending on the right. North is on lead, with spades as trumps, and you can afford to lose only one trick.

The solution can be found on page 8.

Spades trumps ♠ K ♥ Q64 ♦ – ♣ 95	N on lead ♠ J ♥ A5 ♦ 1084 ♣ –									
♠ – ♥ J8 ♦ KQ6 ♣ K	<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	
	N									
W		E								
	S									
♠ Q7 ♥ 3 ♦ AJ9 ♣ –										



Defending against preempts *by* Chris Jagger

Bidding can be hard enough at the best of times, but when people preempt against you, life may become almost impossible. In order to combat this, it is important to play a good defence to preempts, and fortunately, the best defence is also the simplest.

Natural preempts

Over the years all manner of defences against preempts have been proposed, but virtually all top players in the world now agree on how to defend against preempts. Double is for take out, showing a shortage in the bid suit and support for the other three suits, no trump and suit bids are natural. (The cuebid and jump to four of a minor are not entirely standard but are nowadays the way that most people play.)

For example, if opponents open a weak 2♥:

X: Take out, eg Kxxx x AJx KQxxx (Over this, you should play Lebensohl, see Newsletter 12)

2♠: Natural, at least five card suit, 12+ points (ie HCPs), eg AKxxx xx Kxx Qxx

2NT: 16-19, eg Kxx KJx AKxx Kxx

3♠: Natural, at least six card suit, a reasonable seven playing tricks. eg KQJxxx x AKx Kxx

3NT: A better hand, hoping to make 3NT, e.g. Ax Kx xx AKQxxxx

4♠: A good hand, hoping to make ten tricks. KQJxxxx x AKx Ax

3♥: Asking for a heart stop, based on a good minor suit, e.g. Ax x Kxx AKQJxxx

4♣/♦: Roman jump - showing at least five spades, and five cards in the suit bid, and a good hand (with a weaker hand simply overcall 2♠), e.g. KQxxx x AKQxxx x

Notice that there is no way to show a balanced 12-15 points. Indeed - simply pass on these hands. Whilst it is true that you might miss game, they have preempted you, and inevitably bidding is not going to be as accurate as before. What about xx Q10xxx AKx AQx? Pass - and hope that partner can make a take out double, which you will gleefully pass for penalties. Even if partner does not double, it may well be better to defeat 2♥ undoubled than to try to enter the fray.

If they open a three level preempt, things are much the same, but a level higher. You might want an extra point, but it is worth assuming that partner has a seven count, and bidding accordingly. Similarly, when responding to partner, bear in mind that he is already hoping for you to have a seven count, so don't be too eager to raise him. The main difference over a three level preempt is that the cuebid is now a little pointless as asking for a stop, and so should show two five card suits, and a good hand. Similarly all suit bids will be natural.

Multi 2♦ opener

If somebody opens a transfer preempt against you, or more specifically a multi 2♦ (showing a weak two in either major or a strong hand), the principles will be broadly the same, but with some extra options available to you (this is why it is sometimes said that it is easier to defend against a multi 2♦ opener than a natural weak two bid).

The key bid is double - this should NOT be a take out double. It should instead show 13-15 points with a balanced hand, or a very strong hand. The latter will take care of itself. The former is using the extra space to describe itself to partner by doubling a contract that

opponents are unlikely to be able to play in (if you doubled a natural preempt to show this, too often you would force your partner to bid when it would be better to defend). Thus

X: 13-15 balanced, or a strong hand. If the next hand passes (which should show diamonds, though many do not play it this way), your partner should generally pass also, unless he has something to say.

All other bids are natural. If you pass, then you then will bid as before. For example, with Kxxx x AJx KQxxx you will pass, and when the expected 2♥ comes round to you, double for take out. Similarly, 4♣ should show clubs and spades. If you pass, and then protect with a suit bid, this should be weaker than bidding

immediately.

Harder is bidding once it has started 2♦-P-2♥. My advice is pretend it has been a weak 2♥ opener, and defend as above, with the exception that 3♥ should be natural.

The only bid that should be different against a multi is four of a minor. There is very little need for this to be a strong hand, since there are plenty of other ways to show this, and going past 3NT may not be wise. Similarly, as you do not know the suit yet, a Roman jump is not so easy to play. My advice is that this is the one sequence where you should preempt against a preempt. Since they don't know what the suit is, this can be a good time to retaliate, and make opponents' life difficult.



Opening leads competition

In each of the following hands, select a lead. Entries should be submitted to either editor before the end of August.

Based to some extent on a consensus view, our judges will award seven marks for the choice of lead, and a further three for reasoning (which should not be unnecessarily long - a one word explanation may suffice!) Feel free to comment if the form of scoring (or vulnerability) matters.

1. Q10843 Q2 752 Q93. Teams, game all. 1♣-1♥-1NT-P, 3NT.
2. QJ94 Q6 54 J10762. Teams, love all. 1♠-P-2♣-P, 2♠-P-3NT.
3. QJ32 K852 973 A4. Pairs, Oppo vul. 3♥-3♠-P-4♠. (3♠ showed takeout with spades).
4. KJ97 A954 76 K102. Pairs, Oppo vul. 1NT-P-2♣-P, 2♠-P-3NT (Sequence likely to have hearts but not guaranteed.)
5. KJ5 Q108 K3 AJ1087. Pairs, Vul. 1NT-P-2♦-P, 2♥. (Normal transfer.)
6. KJ862 10643 K J52 Pairs, Game all. 1♠-P-2♥-P, 3♣-P-3NT (2♥ game-forcing)
7. 4 J94 KJ7642 K54 Teams, Oppo vul. 2♦-3♦-5♦-5♥, P-6♥. (Weak 2♦, 3♦ showed the majors)



DETECTIVE STORY: Part 3, Grand Finale by Peter Burrows

This is a true story. It happened to me a very very long time ago in a club in London after a hard day's work. As with the two previous articles in this series, (*which originally appeared in the LCCBA News, to which we are indebted (ed),*) there is a challenge involved. Although the story is true, I have taken one small liberty in the telling of the tale, for reasons which will become clear towards the end of my story. The challenge is to identify the inaccuracy. On this particular night, I was taking part in a *partie fixe* and the deals which follow were all dealt in sequence from two new packs, from both of which I stripped the wrappings with my own hands. Honest Injun.

On the first hand, my partner dealt as South and passed. Our opponents then bid unopposed 1♠ – 3♥; 3♠ – 4♣; 6NT – 7NT;

Their hands were

♠ AKQxx		♠ Jx
♥ 10		♥ AKQxxxx
♦ AKxx	W N E	♦ 108
♣ xxx	S	♣ AQ

Spades broke 3-3, and hearts 3-2. Fifteen top tricks! Not a propitious start. Oh yes, and the club finesse would have worked as well.

East dealt the next hand with the auction

East	South	West	North
1♣	1♦	1♥	1♠
3♣	P	3♦	X
3♠	5♦	5♥	P
7♣	P	P	P

		♠ KJxxx	Dealer E
		♥ Jx	
		♦ QJxx	
		♣ x	
♠ x			♠ Axxx
♥ Axxxxxx	W N E		♥ Kx
♦ Ax	S		♦ x
♣ QJxx			♣ AK109xx
		♠ Qxx	
		♥ Qx	
		♦ K10xxxx	
		♣ xx	

Not even a 4-0 heart break would have inconvenienced declarer, provided that (s)he did not suffer a ruff at trick one! Maybe North should have raised diamonds directly, or perhaps South should have supported the spades. Certainly one of us should have bid 7♦ if you judge by the result. But we did none of these things.

I was reeling a bit by this stage, but there was yet more to come on the very next hand:

		♠ xxx	Dealer N
		♥ x	
		♦ xx	
		♣ QJ8xxxx	
♠ x			♠ AKJxx
♥ Jxxxx	W N E		♥ Ax
♦ Axx	S		♦ KQJ109x
♣ AK109			♣ –
		♠ Q10xx	
		♥ KQ10xx	
		♦ xx	
		♣ xx	

North	East	South	West
3♣	4♣*	5♣	6♣
P	7♦	all pass	

South did his best by leading a trump, but declarer won in hand, cashed the $\spadesuit A$, ruffed a spade in dummy, came back to the $\heartsuit A$, and ruffed another spade with the Ace. Then he discarded a small heart on the $\clubsuit A$, ruffed a club high, drew trumps and claimed.

We gravely congratulated our opponents on their bidding, and this led to an animated discussion as to the theoretical distinction between the $6\clubsuit$ bid that West had actually chosen and a bid of 5NT in the same position. There were two schools of thought. One was that the No-trump bid would have directed East's attention to the lower ranking unbid suits, and thus was West's correct choice here, whereas $6\clubsuit$ should have implied support for spades and one other suit. The alternative view was that the distinction between the two bids was basically one of strength, with $6\clubsuit$ being both stronger than 5NT and also (according to one proponent of this view) guaranteeing first round control of clubs.

Most expert partnerships will have their own ideas on this and similar positions, but I do not think that there is any clear-cut consensus. The ranking of the suits in question must have some bearing on the matter. Where the opening is in clubs, then there will be no advantage in space as between the cue-bid and the bid in NT. But in the near analagous positions

- a) $3\diamond - 4\diamond - 5\diamond - ?$
- b) $3\heartsuit - 4\heartsuit - 5\heartsuit - ?$
- c) $3\spadesuit - 4\spadesuit - 5\spadesuit - ?$

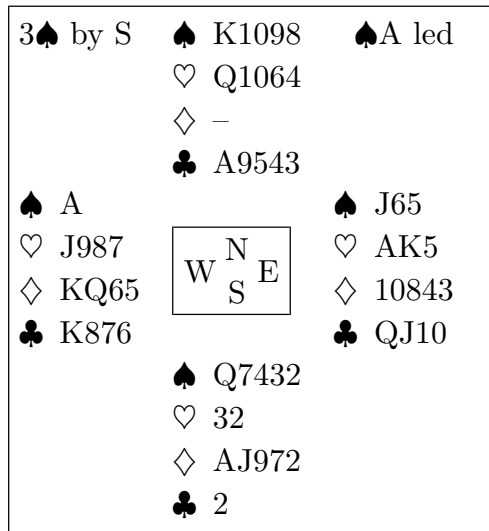
that is not the case, and there are other considerations involved. My own interpretations would be that in (a) 5NT would put emphasis on the club suit, with tolerance for at least one of the majors, while $6\diamond$ would emphasise the majors. Whether it would guarantee first round control of diamonds is a moot point, but I am inclined to think that it should. In (b) 5NT would show a willingness to play

in either minor, probably with a preference for diamonds, and $6\heartsuit$ would show a strong preference for spades, first round control of hearts, and tolerance for both minors, with some expectation of being able to make seven of a minor if partner bids it. In (c) 5NT would clearly put emphasis on the minors, and $6\spadesuit$ is so bulky a bid as to have no practical value.

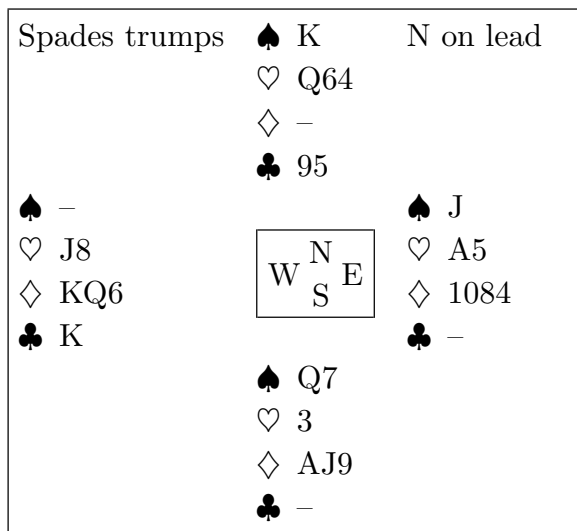
As you can see, this is quite interesting stuff and I am sure that you would get many different shades of emphasis if you were to present these positions to a variety of experts. In our case, the discussion covered all these various points. East and West did not see eye to eye on most of them, and the argument became almost acrimonious at one stage. More important to my story is the fact that it continued unabated throughout the bidding and play of the two subsequent hands. Admittedly my partner and I contributed to the discussion, and so we can not really complain about its longevity. But the next two deals were bid and played at close to the speed of light, with everyone's attention being focussed primarily upon the various theoretical points raised above. What happened on those next two hands? Well, you know already! I did tell you at the outset that I had taken one small liberty in the telling of my tale, and those of you who noticed that the deal seemed to progress in the wrong direction round the table will have divined already what it was. I have described the three hands in the reverse of the order in which they actually took place. And I can vouch for the fact that, if there is one thing more aggravating than being on the wrong end of three successive grand slams at fairly serious stakes, it is being subjected to that experience by opponents whose attention seemed, for the most part, to be occupied with other considerations than those of the matter currently in hand!

The inominate squeeze

Consider the following hand, which is an improved version of a problem composed by Paul Barden which appeared in an early Newsletter:

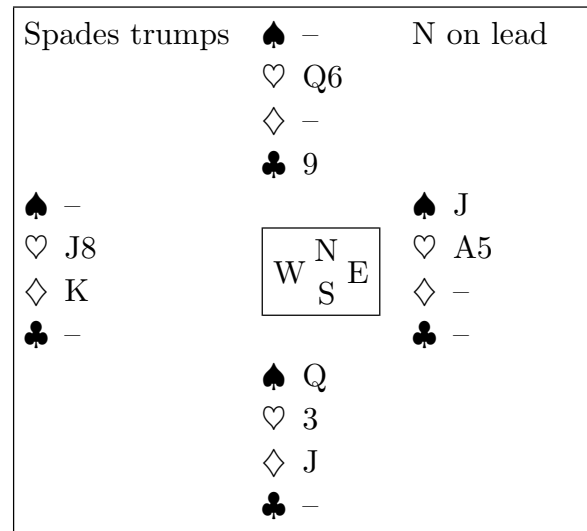


The defence finds the annoying line of ♠A followed by ♥9 to the 10 and K, and a low trump from East, on which West throws ♥7. Declarer is now a trick short, but finds the brilliant shot of a low club from dummy, won by East. A club is returned to dummy (♠J squeezes West!) a club is ruffed in hand and a diamond in dummy, leaving the position on the front cover:



North leads a club and East is subjected to what Paul Barden reliably informs us is a ‘new squeeze’, which has not been seen before in Bridge literature. Another world exclusive for the C&H Newsletter!

- (a) Clearly trumping is hopeless as we make 3 trumps, ♦A and the long club.
- (b) If East throws ♥5, we ruff and duck a heart to the bare ace. A trump is returned, but we cash dummy’s winners and exit with a heart. West must lead to our ♦A.
- (c) So East throws a diamond. We ruff, play ♦A and ruff a diamond. North leads a winning club in this 3 card ending:



East must ruff, we overruff and West, caught in a vice, must throw a heart. A heart lead now establishes dummy’s ♥6.

If you managed to analyse that out from the diagram on the cover, you have my (JM) sincere congratulations! There are many subtleties in the play of the full hand. In particular, note that playing ♦A too early fails, as East throws a heart at the end and then forces dummy.

A for attitude, K for kount by Chris Jagger

Following to the opening lead is a critical part of defensive play. Some people like to play count, some attitude, whilst the more adventurous like a combination of both. The method described in this article is becoming increasingly popular in this country – we give some of the basic principles. This article is aimed more at those already familiar with giving count or attitude.

The basic idea is that if partner leads an ace or a queen, you follow with attitude, whilst on a king or jack lead you will give count. Partner still leads top of sequences, or chooses what to lead with the ace and king (always the king from AK doubleton). Thereafter you fairly blindly follow the rule just given.

For example, if partner leads the ace and dummy goes down with Qxx, you would play a low card from three or more low cards, or a high card from a doubleton, trying to get a ruff. However, if KQx went down in dummy then you would revert to count, or give a suit preference signal. Other than this fairly unusual situation, the normal exceptions to the rule are when partner and dummy are known to have at least nine cards between them (eg Qxxxxx in dummy, when you'd assume partner has AKx, or Qxxxx in dummy after partner has bid the suit). Now you should revert to standard count. Also, if a singleton goes down in dummy in a suit contract, you should probably give suit preference instead.

Whilst it is clear that playing attitude on an ace lead is not always desirable, it is quite

playable to stick rigidly to count on a king lead, and that is what I do with some of my partners. However, with others I have some exceptions here too. On a king lead against a suit contract then I play attitude if dummy has 3 or 4 cards all smaller than the ten, or headed by the ace, with the rest smaller than the ten. (As you only need to know about the jack when declarer has not got the ten.)

As part of this method, against no trumps, the queen should be led from weak KQ holdings (eg KQ9, or KQ10(x) if it is a short suit lead). The king is led from strong holdings (eg KQ10xx or AKJ10x), and asks for count and unblock – partner gives count or else unblocks the queen or jack if he has it (but not the ten). (As a further point, with KQJ9x you start with the king, and then the jack to ask partner to unblock the ten, whilst continuing with the queen would ask partner to keep his ten.) If you don't want partner to unblock, you lead the queen to ask for attitude.

As a final point – how do you decide whether to lead the ace or the king? Whenever you have AKQ of the suit you would lead the king, to ascertain the count in the suit, as you don't care about partner's attitude to the suit. With AK to six you probably want a count signal also. With fewer cards in the suit you are more likely to be leading the ace, though if partner has raised the suit, then probably the king would be better.



Agony Column

Dear Aunt Agony,

I was delighted to hear of your new column in the Newsletter, and would welcome your comments on the following hand from the Thursday club. What advice can you give to West over 5♥? Six hearts is cold for N/S but they don't know it, or would your bidding methods reveal it?

Yours sincerely, Sally Dempster

Dealer West	♠ 3		NS Vul
	♥ 107632		
	♦ 5		
	♣ A109754		
♠ KQ765		W N S E	♠ J92
♥ Q			♥ 85
♦ AKQ10			♦ 98742
♣ Q32			♣ KJ8
	♠ A1084		
	♥ AKJ94		
	♦ J63		
	♣ 6		

West	North	East	South
1♠	P	1NT	2♥
3♦	4♥	4♠	P
P	5♥	P	P
?			

Dear Sally,

This is a very interesting hand indeed. First of all let us run through the auction. The first bid worthy of comment is East's – with a doubleton and three card support for spades, even though partner has not shown a five card suit, I would recommend East to raise partner – partly as it is likely to be a better place to play, and partly to keep opponents out of the auction – how many Souths would venture in at the three level? (I can even imagine some lucky pairs to be allowed to play in 3♠ making after this start.)

The rest of the auction looks quite reasonable, and I imagine that most Wests would double 5♥. However, there are some indications that this is not the right action. For a start, opponents are bidding wildly at unfavourable vulnerability, and it often pays to give some credence to their actions when they do this.

The other indicator is the honour structure West holds. The singleton queen is not only likely to be of little use, but is also an indication that opponents have even more distribution than they might have, since it is two points less than they hold. The king and queen of spades are going to be at most one trick, probably none. Partner's 4♠ bid and subsequent failure to double quite possibly indicates (since he has only three spades), a side diamond fit, thus those values are also quite possibly wasted.

I wouldn't lay my hand on my heart and claim I would not double, but there are certainly indications that it would be better to pass.

What about N/S – should they have bid the cold slam?! Certainly not! It is impossible with so good a fit and so few values to determine if slam is making - even if opponents kept quiet you would be more concerned with preempting the opponents than trying to reach an unlikely slam. Furthermore, on this occasion the slam is only likely to make if the clubs split 3-3 (otherwise two rounds of diamonds take out a vital entry for setting up the clubs). Without that favourable club split you would be very happy to be at the five level.

A particularly red-blooded North might have overcalled a Michaels 2♠. On this particular hand, rather than large quantities of the aforementioned gore being liberally distributed over the table, the lucky 6♥ might well be reached. But Aunt Agony's insurance premiums don't cover this sort of advice. (ed)