



From the Editor

Bridge in Literature - A Bid of Seven Clubs, Doubled and Redoubled:

"... he walked slowly around the table, scrutinizing all the hands. What he saw was this:

Bond		
♦Queen, 8, 7, 6, 5, 4, 3, 2		
♠Ace, queen, 10, 8, 4		
Drax		Meyer
♠Ace, king, queen, knave		♠6, 5, 4, 3, 2
♥Ace, king, queen, knave		♥10, 9, 8, 7, 2
♦Ace, king		♦Knave, 10, 9
♣King, knave, 9		
M.		
♠10, 9, 8, 7		
♥6, 5, 4, 3		
♦7, 6, 5, 3, 2		

And suddenly Basildon understood. It was a lay-down grand slam for Bond against any defense...

... Bond lifted his head and looked straight into Drax's eyes... then he spoke. That's all, Drax," he said quietly...

Drax got slowly to his feet. He stood away from his chair and ran a hand through his wet, red hair ... He turned to the table. 'Good night, gentlemen,' he said, looking at each of them with the same oddly scornful expression. 'I owe about 15,000. I will accept Meyer's addition... I should spend the money quickly, Commander Bond' ..."

Moonraker; Fleming, Ian; Ian Fleming Publications; William Morrow Paperbacks (2023) at 81, 82 and 83.

Note: The Drax hand in *Moonraker* has long been known as the "Duke of Cumberland" hand. According to whist and bridge lore, it was a trick hand dealt to the Duke of Cumberland (son of King George III of Great Britain) who lost the sum of 20,000 pounds betting that he would be able to set a seven club contract by taking at least one trick against the contract given the overwhelming strength of his hand.

Carol Jewett, Editor

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Upcoming Tournaments and Events

Regionals:

San Miguel de Allende - Feb 25-Mar 2 [Info](#)

Sectionals:

San Antonio I/N - Feb 15-16 [Info](#)
Houston 499er - Feb 27-Mar 1 [Info](#)
San Antonio I/N - Mar 1-1 [Info](#)
Beaumont - Mar 6-8 [Info](#)
Austin - Mar 6-9 [Info](#)
San Antonio - Mar 26-29 [Info](#)
San Miguel de Allende - Mar 27-29 [Info](#)

Events:

District 16 Zoom Spanish Lecture - Feb 15 at 12:30 p.m.
District 16 Zoom I/N Lecture - Feb 22 at noon
0-100 masterpoint games every day at 6:00 p.m.
0-200 masterpoint games every day at 6:00 p.m.

For information on other tournaments in general for District 16, [click here.](#)

Bridge Math

You are South playing a 4♥ contract with the following holding:

♠AQ43	
♥J54	
♦87	
♣KJ43	
♠K2	
♥KQ10983	
♦K4	
♣Q95	

West was the dealer and neither East nor West bid during the auction. The opening lead is the ♠J. Plan your play, focusing on each suit in terms of what is the best way to play the suit and what is the percentage likelihood of success of that way of playing the suit.

The Solution:

If you win the first trick and lead trumps you run the risk that East will get in and return a diamond, defeating you if the diamond ace is wrong. (On the bidding, East must have at least one ace - if either East or West had held all three of the aces that you are missing, it is most likely that one of them would have opened the bidding.) The alternative is playing three rounds of spades immediately to discard a diamond on the third winning spade. Although the diamond ace will be right 50% of the time, the chances of a 4-3 spade split start at about 62%. In addition, if East should ruff the third spade you will be able to overruff and hope that the diamond ace is placed in front of the diamond king after all.

Material from *Frank Stewart's Contract Bridge Quiz Book*, Stewart, Frank, Prentice. - Hall, Inc., New Jersey (1986).

The Match Game

At the ACBL District 16 Lone Star Regional in Houston in 2018, Betty Starzec gave a presentation that challenged her audience to play a match game. Here is an abridged and edited version of her presentation:

The Match Game

By

Betty Starzec

Bidding describes two features of your hand to your partner: Strength & Shape. Every bid you make should tell your partner something about your hand that he or she doesn't already know and something that is useful to know. When you hold a strong hand, it becomes very important for partner to know your shape. Shapely hands are those that are two-suited ...3-6, 6-4, 6-5 and 6-6 are unusual and need to be expressed to your partner and even some three-suited hands should be fully described if your hand is strong.

SET I

On the following hands match the hand on the right with Opener's (North) bidding in the auctions on the left.

	North	South	A. ♠AQJ7	D. ♠AQ9432
1.	1♠	1NT	♥J5	♥J1073
	2♥	2NT	♣QJ103	♦
	3♠		♦K93	♦AK6
2.	1♠	2♠	B. ♠AKQx	E. ♠Q43
	2♥	2NT	♥J5	♥AKQ107
	3♠		♦AQ85	♦6
			♦K63	♣KQJ10
3.	1♠	1♥	C. ♠AK52	F. ♠AQ943
	2NT		♥KQ953	♥J1073
4.	1♠	1♥	♦5	♦8
	1♠		♠AQJ	♦AK6
5.	1♥	2♦		
	3♠			
6.	1♥	2♠		
	2♠	2NT		
	3♠			

SET II

On the following hands match the hand on the right with Responder's (South) bidding in the auctions on the left. Warning: the auction may not be over!

	North	South	A. ♠AQJ532	D. ♠QJ53
1.	1NT	2♠	♥KJ85	♥J1095
	2♥	2♥	♦74	♦2
			♠6	♠8543
2.	1NT	2♦	B. ♠Q7432	E. ♠KQ942
	2♥	2♠	♥9853	♥AQ743
3.	1NT	2♥	♦53	♦75
	2♠	Pass	♠52	♠3
4.	1NT	2♥	C. ♠Q9654	F. ♠AJ843
	2♠	3♥	♥AJ765	♥KQJ4
			♦87	♦Q7
			♠4	♠J10
5.	1NT	2♠		
	2♥	4♥		
6.	1NT	2♠		
	2♥	3♥		

ANSWERS

SET I

- D - always show hearts, but rebid spades later to show extras
- F - this shows a fragment - playing 3NT is still in the picture
- B - must show your points - play checkback to find out if there is a spade fit
- A - this hand shows spades without extras
- E - shows extras - can bid 2NT with less
- C - over 2♥ by responder, the 2♠ rebid by opener is not a reverse

SET II

- D - find your 4-3 major suit fit, which will be better than 1NT more often
- C - this is an invitational sequence
- B - just transfer to your 5-card suit
- E - this sequence is game forcing
- A - this is a delayed Texas transfer
- F - this is Smolen

Eddie Kantar Hand

The hand:

♦Q5	
♥AQJ	
♦KQ62	
♠A542	
♠AKJ1043	
♥8	
♥1087	
♠76J	
♠862	
♥976543	
♥AJ	
♠K8	

The bidding:

West	North	East	South
			Pass
2♠	Dbl	Pass	4♥

The lead: ♠A (A from AK)

Bidding commentary: South has the high card strength for a weak 2♥ opening, but the suit is decrepit. West on the other hand has the kind of suit one dreams about for a weak two-bid opening. North has a clear takeout double and South can do no less than leap to 4♥. A 3♥ response is far too timid. A non-jump response to a takeout double is made with 0-8 revalued points. A jump response shows 9-11 revalued points. Incidentally, a six card suit in response to a takeout double clocks in for 3 extra points.

Defensive commentary: West begins with three rounds of spades and dummy ruffs with the ♥J.

Further defensive commentary: If East overruffs the ♥J, that is the last defensive trick. If East discards, however, two trump tricks are coming with the K-10-2 sitting over the blank A-Q in the dummy. Before overruffing an honor with an honor, ask yourself how many trump tricks you are entitled to if you don't overruff. If there is a chance that not overruffing will produce an extra trump trick, discard.

Material from Eddie Kantar's *Chalk Talk*, American Contract, Bridge League Bridge Bulletin, April 2011 at page 51.

Protect That Honor

The hand:

♠7	
♥A872	
♦1083	
♣QJ1063	
♠K10862	
♥K94	
♦AJ5	
♠97	
♠AJ54	
♥853	
♦KQ762	
♠A	
♠Q93	
♥QJ10	
♦94	
♠K8542	

The bidding:

West	North	East	South
		1♠	Pass
1♠	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♠	Pass	Pass	Pass

Auction Commentary: East's raise to 3♠ shows 4-card support and a medium size opening hand of 16-18 points. West does the math and bids game.

Opening Lead From North: ♠Q (top of a sequence of honors).

Planning the Play: In a suit contract, the plan needs to start with counting the losers. If you find too many, you need to plan how to eliminate the ones you can't afford to lose. The losers here are one club, three hearts, and possibly the ♠Q... which could be two losers too many. The club loser can be ruffed, but there is no ruff with four trumps in the dummy, and declarer hopes to discard two heart losers on the diamonds. In what order should we do things? Trump must be drawn first. The problem will come if declarer loses to the ♠Q. If South gains the lead, he can switch to the ♥Q, to trap the ♥K. To avoid this heart attack (see what we did there?) Declarer has to finesse South for the trump queen. If the finesse loses to North, the ♥K is protected.

BUT WAIT A MINUTE! FINESSE? I was told, "Eight ever, nine never!" Okay, when there are no other considerations, that's true. However, avoiding the danger hand always takes precedence! If all we care about is making the best play to lose zero trump tricks, it would be right to bang down the ♠AK. But it's not all we care about; we also care about making the contract. :) It's gravy in this case as the finesse works and Declarer makes 6!

ACBL Online Community Bridge Game Lesson, October 17, 2024

It's The Law

The cornerstone of ACBL guidance and rules regarding the conduct of bridge players is the concept of "Active Ethics". One of the four pillars of Active Ethics is "friendly demeanor". Here is how Robb Gordon, ACBL National Recorder, describes the pillar of "friendly demeanor":

"Friendly demeanor. Bridge is a serious game and the competition can be intense. But unlike many activities, bridge is often played with and against players of unequal ability. Actively Ethical players are courteous, friendly and always try to make their opponents feel at ease. Actively Ethical players compliment opponents on their good play and never humiliate or criticize partner or opponents. Actively Ethical players call the director in a pleasant tone and accept rulings with graciousness; even if they do not agree and even if they wish to appeal the ruling. The keys are respect and the Golden Rule."

From *For the Record*
By Robb Gordon, ACBL National Recorder