#### November 2022 ACBL Bulletin Notes

# Jeff Kroll Sam Khayatt

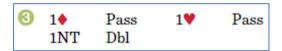
These are the articles that we believe will benefit our readers the most.

- 1. "The Bidding Box" moderated by Josh Donn (p. 42-44), Problem 5. Why making and leaving in a double of 2♠ would have resulted in a higher score for both participants.
- 2. "Parrish the Thought: Declarer isn't drawing trump" by Adam Parrish (p. 51). A good declarer usually pulls trumps ASAP. When they don't, it's because they have a good reason not to. Often that reason is that they want/need to trump in the short trump hand. When on defense you should lead trumps to prevent declarer from doing this.
- 3. "Reasoning with Robert: Bidding opposite a passed hand" by Robert S. Todd (p. 52) It is sometimes correct to open a good four-card major in third seat. It is often right to preempt at the two-level with a good five-card suit in third seat.
- 4. "Startup Bridge: Redoubles: A seldom-used tool" by Lynn Berg (p.53). When and when not to redouble.
- 5. "Lessons Learned: Leading trumps" by Michael Berkowitz (p.54). When playing in his or her second suit, declarer will usually be looking to cross ruff. Lead a trump.
- 6. "Bidding Matters: Relearning Bridge part 32" by Karen Walker (p. 64). Four similar-sounding auctions where partner's double has various meanings.
- 7. "Test Your Play" by Eddie Kantar (p 65).
  - Deal 1: End play East and avoid a likely losing finesse.
  - Deal 2: Try to set up a long suit and finesse only as a last resort.

#### **Our Favorites**

### "Bidding Matters: Relearning Bridge – part 32" by Karen Walker (p. 64).

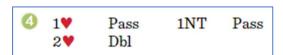
Walker presents several auctions, each of which involves the red suit(s) and a double. Then she describes what the double is showing in each. Auctions 3 and 4 are interesting to review; all are worth a discussion with your partner.



Partner's initial pass does not deny an opener. It just means that partner did not have a bid over 1 ♦. Maybe partner's suit is diamonds. Maybe partner cannot double

because partner does not have three-card support for all the unbid suits. This double is a takeout, something like  $\triangle A$  9 7 6  $\lor$ 4  $\lor$  K Q 4 2  $\clubsuit$ A J 8 3.

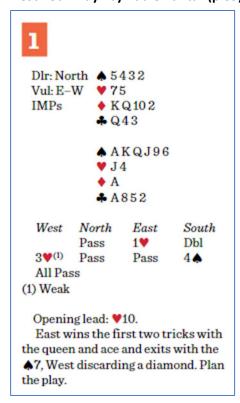
If righty passes (instead of bidding  $1 \lor$ ), it is important for you to balance with 8+ points. Otherwise, opener buys the contract for  $1 \lor$  and partner might have had an opening hand.



If partner is not strong enough to make a takeout double of  $1 \checkmark$ , he does not suddenly become strong enough to make a takeout double of  $2 \checkmark$ . This double is for penalty,

perhaps holding something like ♠8 ♥KJT73 ♦AQ4 ♣KQT7.

## "Test Your Play" by Eddie Kantar (p 65)

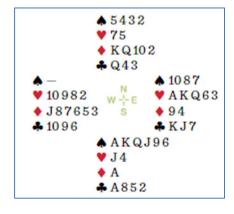


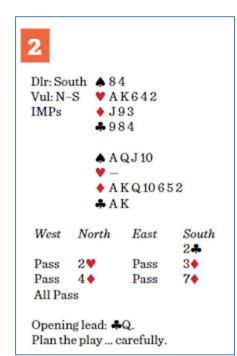
If we do not pay attention to the auction, we would pull trump, cash &A and lead a small club to the &Q, hoping West has the &K. This line of play is unlikely to work since there are not enough points in the deck for West to have the &K. East opened holding about 13 points and NS have 26. It is almost certain that East has the &K. (If West does have the &K, make sure it's from the same deck.)

So, the way to play this is to pull another round of trump, leaving the last one in East's hand. Then cash the ◆A and lead a low spade to Easts T. We are giving East a trick to which he is not entitled, but by doing so, we are also end-playing him. After winning the T, he will be forced to lead something useful for us:

- A club lead makes our ♣Q good; we can pitch losing clubs on the ♦KQ.
- A diamond lead gives us three diamond tricks for discards.
- A heart will be trumped in dummy, giving us a ruff and a sluff and access to the ◆KQ for discards.

A layout like this will give our plan a reasonable chance of success:





This is a "take all your chances" deal. A lazy declarer will live or die by the spade finesse. A careful declarer will see if the fifth heart sets up. The careful declarer will also manage the entries. The three entries to the dummy are diamonds. So, the ◆2 cannot be wasted as it is needed to get to the ◆3, the third entry.

If the fifth heart cannot be set up, then declarer will fall back on

the spade finesse knowing he took all his chances.

Declarer is hoping for a layout like the one at right.

