



BIDDING 6-PACK 4th June 08

Problems

Board 3	E-W Vul			
♠ AK98	<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
♥ AT54				Pass
♦ J	1♣	Pass	1♥	Pass
♣ AQT7	??			

Board 3	E-W Vul			
♠ J6	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>	<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>
♥ KQ763		Pass	1♣	Pass
♦ AQ83	1♥	Pass	3♦	Pass
♣ J9	??			

Board 9	E-W Vul			
♠ AJ92	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>	<i>West</i>
♥ 8653	Pass	1♣	1♠	Dbl
♦ A753	??			
♣ A852				

Board 16	E-W Vul			
♠ A432	<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
♥ AQ84	1♦	Pass	2♦	Pass
♦ Q97	??			
♣ 75				

Board 17	None Vul			
♠ K6	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>	<i>West</i>
♥ K8632	Pass	1♦	Pass	1♠
♦ 6	??			
♣ KT865				

Board 21	N-S Vul			
♠ AT	<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
♥ A952		Pass	Pass	Pass
♦ AJ94	1NT	Pass	2♦	Pass
♣ KJ2	??			

Solutions

Board 3	E-W Vul			
♠ AK98	<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
♥ AT54				Pass
♦ J	1♣	Pass	1♥	Pass
♣ AQT7	??			

Because a reverse of 2♦ shows a strong hand there is no need for 3♦ also to show strength. So, a common treatment is for the jump reverse to be a splinter. Most splinter bids are forcing to game by necessity, for example, if the auction starts 1♥ 4♣, then it's too late to play in a part-score. But here there is still room to play in 3♥, so the common way to play the jump reverse is for it to show around 14 HCP's or more (with no upper limit).

Board 3	E-W Vul			
♠ J6	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>	<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>
♥ KQ763		Pass	1♣	Pass
♦ AQ83	1♥	Pass	3♦	Pass
♣ J9	??			

West's 3♦ was a jump reverse, played by E-W as a splinter, but not game-forcing, it could be made on as little as a good 14. Obviously, East has more than enough to go to game, and we'd say that it is just about enough to make a slam move of some sort. But not 4NT, that would be a gross overbid, and highly unsuitable with that worthless doubleton in the unbid suit. So, East bids 4♦, planning to give up on slam if West now bids just 4♥.

But, after 4♦, suppose that West bids 4NT. Playing Roman Key Card, we bid 5♠, showing two Key Cards and the Queen of trumps. Now Partner bids 5NT, the King Ask. But which King Ask? Do you play "Number of Kings" or "Specific King"? It's possible to construct hands where either one works better, but on balance the Specific King method is surely superior. In fact, this hand provides supporting evidence for that. If Partner shows us the K♣ we'll want to be in 7♥, but if he shows us the K♦ then the grand slam will be on a finesse. However, if we are playing "Number of Kings" and Partner shows us one King, then we'll be completely in the dark as to whether that King is the much-prized K♣ or the semi-useless K♦.

Board 9

♠ AJ92
♥ 8653
♦ A753
♣ A852

E-W Vul

<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>	<i>West</i>
Pass	1♣	1♠	Dbl
??			

After West's Double, North will, of course, be raising Partner's Spades. But how? With a 9-card fit, North is prepared to compete to the three-level, but this hand is too good for an immediate 3♠, that would be preemptive. On the other hand, North is not good enough for a 2♣ cue-bid. North is somewhere in between a preempt and a cue-bid, in that zone known as a "constructive" raise and the common treatment is to raise to 2♣ and then to compete further to 3♠ if necessary.

However, there is a gadget for this hand type, one which borrows from Bergen Major Raises. The simplest form of this gadget is to use 3♣ here for the "constructive raise". When does this 3♣ raise apply? One possibility is that it is in effect whenever Partner has opened or overcalled 1♥ or 1♠, and when the opponents are in the auction, and when 3♣ will be a jump bid. As with most conventions there are some caveats and wrinkles, which is why it is our "Convention of the Week". Please check there for more information.

Board 16

♠ A432
♥ AQ84
♦ Q97
♣ 75

E-W Vul

<i>West</i>		<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
1♦	Pass	2♦	Pass
??			

2♦ was an Inverted Raise, showing at least invitational strength, with Diamond support, and no 4-card major. Some partnerships like to bid stoppers here, but a simpler (and in our view more effective) style is to bid the *hand-type*:

- 2NT is a balanced minimum
- 3♦ is an unbalanced minimum
- 2♥ and 2♠ show something in that suit and enough for game
- Side-suit bids at the 3-level show shortness

If these are the methods in use then West has an obvious 2NT rebid. As luck would have it there was another 1♦ 2♦ auction on Board 25.

<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>	<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>
			Pass
1♦	Pass	2♦	Pass
??			

East's hand: ♠ K763, ♥ J, ♦ QJT86, ♣ KQ6
It's another minimum opening, but this one is unbalanced, an obvious 3♦ bid.

Board 17

♠ K6
♥ K8632
♦ 6
♣ KT865

None Vul

<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>	<i>West</i>
Pass	1♦	Pass	1♠
??			

North is a passed hand so there is no possibility that 1NT here could be construed as natural, the obvious interpretation is that it shows both the unbid suits, a sort of Unusual NT but at the one-level. That being the case, North has three distinct ways of showing the unbid suits:

- **Double:** Typically 4-4 or 4-5 in the unbid suits with 10 or 11 points.
- **2NT:** At least 5-5 in the unbid suits, with a weak hand, in other words it's your classic Unusual NT.
- **1NT:** Also 5-5, but a better hand. Perhaps something exactly like the actual North hand!

Sure, North could double to show good values (for a passed hand) and the unbid suits, but 1NT is more descriptive, conveying also the 5-5 distribution.

Board 21

♠ AT
♥ A952
♦ AJ94
♣ KJ2

N-S Vul

	<i>North</i>		<i>South</i>
	Pass	Pass	Pass
1NT	Pass	2♦	Pass
??			

East's 2♦ was a Jacoby Transfer, and, yes, it's super-accept time again! This hand is actually a good commercial for the practice of super-accepting major suit transfers when holding 4-card support. Go to wednesdaygame.com for more on this subject, here we'll just take a look at what happens if West "super-accepts" the transfer and takes the partnership to the 3-level. It turns out that 3♥ goes down one trick, to which one might say "What's so great about that? Down one when 2♥ was destined to make!" Well, 2♥ was not destined to make anything! If West had not super-accepted, then South would have got into the auction with 2♠, and if West had competed to 3♥ then North would have gone on to 3♠. So, the super-accept may have got E-W too high, but its preemptive value wins the day.