

Diabolical

North (Alex)

S AKQ103
H ---
D A5
C AK9853

South (me)

S J8752
H K86
D QJ86
C J

E	S	W	N
P	P	1H	2H
4H	4S	5H	7S



West found the only lead to give me grief: Irina Kislitsyna (playing with partner, Claire Alpert) led the D 10.

Tough to be put to the test at trick one when the C suit in dummy begs to be established, providing 3 D pitches. And with any other lead, I would have the timing to take all my chances. While W rated to have the D King, she was after all in 3rd seat (and could have opened light) and anyway, who would ever underlead a K against a grand slam? I failed the test and pinned all my hopes and dreams on the Club suit. Alas, the Clubs broke 5-1 and it was not to be. A cunning lead by Irina. I shall beware of her the next time we meet.

Her hand (West) was

S 6
H AJ732
D K109432
C 2

East held

S 94
H Q10954
D 7
C Q10764

Most were in 6S only and those in 7 did not have the temptress on lead. Alex and I are still speaking.

BIDDING QUIZ

YOU are South in all the following examples:

1. You hold: S. AQ10xx H. Kxx D. AJx C. xx

North	East	South	West
Pass	Pass	1S	Pass
1NT *	Pass	?	

*1NT = Natural: 6-9

2. North East South West
Pass Pass 1S Pass
2NT Pass ?

3. You hold: S. AKJxx H. xx D. A982 C. xx

South	West	North	East
1S	Pass	2C	Pass
?			

4. You hold: S. AQ109xxx H. K D. AK C. AKx

South	West	North	East
2C	Pass	2D*	Pass
2S	Pass	3S**	Pass
4NT	Pass	5H ***	Pass
?			

2C =strong and artificial

*2D= waiting

**3S= positive

4NT= Key Card Blackwood (1430) including the four aces and the SK.

***5H showed two keycards.

5. You hold: S. AQJ10xxx H. x D. xx C. xxx

South	West	North	East
3S	Pass	Pass	4H
?			

6. You hold: S. Qx H. AQxxx D. xx C. KQxx

South	West	North	East
1H	Pass	1S	2D
?			

7. You hold: S. AKxxx H. Qxx D. xx C. KQx

South	West	North	East
1S	Pass	2C	Pass
?			

8. You hold: S. AKxxxx H. AKJx D. x C. xx

South	West	North	East
1S	Pass	2C	Pass
?			

9. You hold: S. KQxx H. KJxx D. AJx C. xx

North	East	South	West
1C	Pass	1H	Pass
2C	Pass	?	

10. You hold: S. x H. QJ9 D. Q109x C. KQ10xx

South	West	North	East
Pass	Pass	1S	Pass
2C*	Pass	2H	Pass
?			

* Natural

11. You hold: S. AJx H. KQx D. A10xx C. Q10x

North	East	South	West
1NT*	Pass	?	* 15-17

12. You hold: S. xx H. Jxx D. AKQxx C. xxx

North	East	South	West
1NT	2S	?	

13. You hold: S. x H. AKQxxxx D. A109 C. K9

East	South	West	North
1C	?		

14. You hold: S. xx H. J10x D. AQ10xx C. AQ10

North	East	South	West
1H	Pass	2D	Pass
2NT	Pass	?	

1. Pass. Do not rebid 2S which shows six spades in this sequence. The rebid of a major does not guarantee six cards but when partner has responded 1NT, it does now guarantee a 6 card suit.

2. 3NT Partner has 11 HCP and you have a great 14 including a strong five card suit. Do not pass. Jacoby 2NT does not exist by a passed hand.

3. 2D Do not rebid Spades when you have another suit available to bid. It is at a lower level than the suit you opened so you are not making a reverse.

4. 7NT It is wrong to bid anything else when you can count 13 tricks: 7 spades, 2 hearts, 2 diamond and at least two clubs. Playing the hand in 7S means you run the risk, (very slender), of an opening lead getting ruffed.

5. Pass. You have already told your story. You have preempted and may not now bid again unless your partner had made a forcing bid. The preempter does NOT bid again unless forced by partner.

6. Pass. You have a minimum and partner still has another turn to bid. You may NOT now bid 3C which shows extras or 2H which shows a stronger suit. This is one that less

experienced players get wrong all the time. Ask yourself this always: "Have I already told my story?" You truly have nothing else to say at this moment.

7. 3C A raise to the three level in this sequence shows a minimum hand and at least three Clubs including an honour. You could not bid NT as you had a useless doubleton in Diamonds. The opponents will know NOT to lead Spades and not to lead Clubs so they may well choose to lead Diamonds. Thus you promise a stopper in that suit.

8. 2H With a strong 6-4, start with the six card suit, then bid the four card suit and then back to the six card suit. With a weaker 6-4, start with the six card suit, repeat the six card suit, and then bid the four card suit.

9. 3NT You are too strong to rebid 2NT which is not forcing and partner could pass. You know that partner does NOT have four Spades or she would have bid them versus bidding 2C.

10. 2NT A raise to 3H now, a raise of a second suit by opener, guarantees four card support... carved in stone. 2NT is just right.

11. 4NT Invitational. You are not strong enough to bid 6NT & are too strong to raise to 3NT. Incidentally, if you wish to ask for aces directly after partner opens 1NT or 2NT, jump to 4C, Gerber. This particular hand is not suited for a Gerber ask. 4NT is a quantitative bid. If you are playing Puppet Stayman (which asks partner if she has a 5 card major and if not, does she have a 4?) then that convention would be highly recommended here.

12. 3NT This does not promise a Spade stopper. The overcaller seldom has a solid suit. There is a convention called LEBENSOHL which is an important one to learn but very complex. Bid 3NT and pray hard.

13. Double You are too strong to make a simple overcall which promises 8-17 points including distribution. Double first and if partner bids 1S, you just bid 2H. Partner will wonder why you did not just overcall Hearts to start with and will know that you are the BIG overcall with 18 or more points including distribution.

14. 4H Delayed support at the three level shows three card support. If you had 4 card support, you would have used Jacoby 2NT or a Splinter.

With thanks to Eddie Kantar, every bridge teacher's (and every student's) guru, for all he has done for bridge. The two best bridge books ever written have just been updated and revised by Barbara and they come out this fall. Watch for them in our next newsletter.

These hands are Eddie's and some of the commentary is also.

Visit his website at www.kantarbridge.com

Order his Kantar Lesson Manuals I, II, III, IV by writing to his wife Yvonne at kantarbridge@gmail.com

You will be an overnight success!!

DOCTOR UP YOUR DECLARER PLAY

The first hand that follows is to build you up to the second hand, in order to illustrate a MOST important principle. If you find the first one too easy, please hang in there and still look at the second one.

S 53
H 5
D 876543
C AK43

Opening lead: D Ace

On an insane bidding
sequence, you get to 6S. W
leads D Ace. Plan the play.

S AKQJ10
H A432
D ----
C QJ52

Let's count losers from the South hand's point of view. You have 3 Heart losers and no other losers. Always count losers in the hand that has more trump, which is usually the declarer's hand. It is called the LONG hand because it has MORE trump.

OK, so West has led the D Ace. You have to ruff it. Look at that situation...you have WON that trick but HAVE YOU GAINED A TRICK? The answer is NO because that trump was ALWAYS going to be a trick.

So, since you have 2 too many losers, you look to dummy and spot the singleton H there. You plan to ruff two Hearts in dummy. You do this right away because if you pull trumps first, you will not have any trump in dummy with which to ruff your Heart losers. Heart Ace and ruff a Heart. You have to repeat this but you are in dummy. IF you choose to ruff a Diamond back to your hand, then you will have shortened your trumps to only three (AKQ). Now when you go to pull trump later, what happens if the trump break 4-2 as they are supposed to do, missing 6 cards? One of your opponents will have more trump than you do.

You should play a Club to the Queen and ruff another Heart in dummy. You still have to get back to your hand so that you can pull trump. Clubs will break 3-2 most of the time (missing 5) so play a Club to the Jack and pull trumps.

Here's the point...You gained TWO TRICKS by ruffing two Hearts in the dummy. That hand is called the SHORT hand...the hand with fewer trump. You always gain tricks by trumping in the short hand. You never GAIN tricks by trumping in the LONG hand.

NOTE that this hand has one of the symptoms of a Cross Ruff but it is NOT a Cross Ruff hand. On a cross-ruff, you can never pull any trump and on a hand where you have a long solid side-suit, you must be able to pull trump, otherwise the opponents will trump your good side-suit.

So now for another hand.

S KQJ
H 63
D Q10
C KQ10765

Opening lead: D Ace

W	N	E	S	S	A1093
1D	2C	P	2H	H	KQJ108
P	3D*	P	3S**	D	8
P	4S***			C	A42

* 3D said: "Partner do you have a D stopper ?"

** 3S said: "No D stopper, but I do have four Spades, in case you do."

*** 4S was: " Sounds like we have enough points for game but no 8 card major fit and no D stopper for NT so do the best you can in 4S!"

So this is how you find yourself in 4 S on a 4-3 fit. It doesn't happen often but does occasionally and you have to know how to deal with this. It is calling playing in a Moysian fit, named after Alphonse Moysie Jr.

South is the LONG hand. It has more trumps. Your missing 6 trumps will divide MOST of the time 4-2. If you as declarer ever trump in the LONG hand, you will be down to only three trump and then one of your opponents will have more trump than you do. You will quickly lose control of the hand.

When West leads D Ace, followed by D King, you must NOT ruff this. You must discard a Heart instead, otherwise you are toast. Now West cannot continue with another Diamond or you will simply ruff this in the SHORT hand.

Let's say West now leads a Club. You win it and since no-one ruffs the Club, you now know Clubs are breaking and you now draw four rounds of trump, overtaking the last trump in dummy with the S Ace in your hand, drawing the last trump with the S 10. Now you play the Clubs and discard your Hearts. You lose 3 tricks.