

The Granovetter Weekly Bridge Quiz

Sample Issue



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Problem 1

Teams

You are South, no one vul, with:

♠ A 10 9 8 3
 ♥ A 5
 ♦ A K 5 3 2
 ♣ 3

You deal and open 1♠. Partner jumps to 3♠, a limit raise.

Your system allows you to make a short-suit slam try at this point, so you bid 4♣, showing a singleton or void in clubs. Partner bids 4NT, Keycard Blackwood, and you show 0 or 3 keycards with your 5♣ reply. Partner now jumps to 6♥!

South	West	North	East
1 ♠	pass	3 ♠	pass
4 ♣*	pass	4 NT	pass
5 ♣	pass	6 ♥	pass
?			

*short-suit slam try

Obviously, partner has played you for three keycards. But what is 6♥? Is he looking to play in another suit after having made a limit raise?

In your partnership history, partner has occasionally made a limit raise with three good trump, rather than four. In that case, he could have a strong heart suit on the side and be offering an alternative trump suit. On the other hand, you have only a doubleton heart, when you could easily have held three or four of them, because of your 4♣ shortness bid.

Crunch time. Do you pass or bid 6♠?

NOTE: In this sample issue, we are presenting two problems and the answers. In our weekly issues, we will present the answers to the previous week's problems, followed by two new problems.

Problem 2

Teams

East deals • All vul

You are South in 3NT.

North

♠ 9
 ♥ Q J 2
 ♦ A Q 10 7 5 4
 ♣ A 8 4

South

♠ Q J 10 4 2
 ♥ A 9 5 3
 ♦ J
 ♣ K 9 5

South	West	North	East
—	—	—	pass
pass	pass	1 ♦	pass
1 ♠	pass	2 ♦	pass
2 ♥	pass	3 ♣	pass
3 NT	(all pass)		

Opening lead: ♥6

Plan the play. What card do you play from dummy and how will you proceed when East plays small, the 10 or the king?

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Let's look at the two problems from page one. Both hands are from the Bermuda Bowl final this year between teams from Norway and the USA, won by Norway.

Solution 1 • South deals • None vul

North			
♠	K Q 5		
♥	K J 8 4 2		
♦	J 9		
♣	J 7 4		
West	East		
♠	J 7 6	♠	4 2
♥	Q 6	♥	10 9 7 3
♦	Q 10 6	♦	8 7 4
♣	A Q 6 5 2	♣	K 10 9 8
South			
♠	A 10 9 8 3		
♥	A 5		
♦	A K 5 3 2		
♣	3		

South	West	North	East
<i>Helness</i>	<i>Ros'berg</i>	<i>Helgemo</i>	<i>Zia</i>
1 ♠	pass	3 ♠	pass
4 ♣*	pass	4 NT	pass
5 ♣	pass	6 ♥	pass
?			

*short-suit slam try

The problem was whether to bid or pass over 6♥. The argument for bidding was that you held only a doubleton heart, where you could easily have held three or more hearts after your 4♣ short-suit slam try. The argument for passing is that partner's jump to a new suit sounds like a solid suit, such as K-Q-J-x-x(x), and it will play better in 6♥, if partner has something like K-J-x or K-x-x of spades and the queen of diamonds. The diamonds might be used to discard spades.

At the table, Tor Helness, of Norway, passed 6♥, using the second argument, but his partner was only offering a choice of slams, hoping to find opener with A-Q-x or A-x-x of hearts. As it was, 6♠ would have been made, but 6♥ was down one. At the other table in the match 6♠ was bid and made by the Americans, though it was lucky to make 6♠, with the diamonds splitting 3-3.

Solution 2 • East deals • All vul

North			
♠	9		
♥	Q J 2		
♦	A Q 10 7 5 4		
♣	A 8 4		
West	East		
♠	A 8 5 3	♠	K 7 6
♥	10 8 7 6 4	♥	K
♦	3 2	♦	K 9 8 6
♣	J 10	♣	Q 7 6 3 2
South			
♠	Q J 10 4 2		
♥	A 9 5 3		
♦	J		
♣	K 9 5		

South	West	North	East
<i>Zia</i>	<i>Helness</i>	<i>Ros'berg</i>	<i>Helgemo</i>
—	—	—	pass
pass	pass	1 ♦	pass
1 ♠	pass	2 ♦	pass
2 ♥	pass	3 ♣	pass
3 NT	(all pass)		

Opening lead: ♥6

This deal, also from that match, featured a nicely played hand by Zia in the South seat. He played low from dummy at trick one. The reason is this: Whatever East plays, South will win with the 9 or ace and then lead the ♦J for a finesse. Assuming

the ♦J holds, declarer can lead a low heart back toward dummy. He now has two entries to dummy, one in hearts and one in clubs, to dislodge the ♦K and get back to dummy to run the diamonds. That gives him nine tricks for sure: two hearts, five diamonds, and two clubs.

If, however, you play the ♥J or ♥Q from dummy at trick one, East might play low. You will lead a diamond to the jack, which holds and now you can only get back to dummy twice if the ♥K is with West. Picture, for example, if West has led from a doubleton or three small. By playing low from dummy at trick one, Zia ensured two more entries there.

At the other table, North rebid 2NT over 2♥ (Rosenberg's 3♣ was a better bid). Now East was on lead to 3NT and led a club, which gave the defenders more chances. Declarer ducked a round of clubs and won the second round with the king. Since the club suit was being set up in one more round, declarer could not afford to let the ♦J win and then lead a low heart to dummy (remember, he had no idea that the ♥K was singleton). Instead, he took a reasonable line of play of overtaking the ♦J with the queen, playing West for the king doubleton or either hand for king-third. But he went down two tricks when the king was fourth and diamonds could not be set up in time.

New Problems
for the Next Issue

Problem 1.

You are South at rubber bridge, in which the other three players are not as strong a player as you. (This is how you make your living!)

With both sides vulnerable you deal and pass with:

♠ 4
♥ A Q 8 2
♦ 6 5 3 2
♣ K 10 8 3

<i>You</i>		<i>Partner</i>	
South	West	North	East
pass	pass	pass	1 ♣
pass	1 ♦	1 ♥	1 NT
3 ♥	4 ♣	pass	4 ♦
?			

What is your call and why?

Problem 2.

The pressure is off. It is only a Sectional pair game. You are South. East deals and no one is vul.

North
♠ J 10
♥ A J 7 4
♦ A K 7 3
♣ 9 6 3

South
♠ K Q 8 7 5 4
♥ K Q 3
♦ 4 2
♣ 7 5

<i>You</i>		<i>Partner</i>	
South	West	North	East
—	—	—	1 ♣
2 ♠	pass	4 ♠	(all pass)

Opening lead: ♣2

East wins the king and queen of clubs, then continues with the ace of clubs. You ruff low as West plays the jack on the third round. You lead a trump to the 10, which wins. Then the ♠J wins, West discarding a low heart. How do you continue?