

Lebensohl quiz answers

1. You want to force: bid 3♦. If partner bids 3NT you will respect her decision. If she bids anything else it ought to be a cue bid looking for a slam in diamonds.
2. You want to compete; so bid 2♠ since it is not forcing
3. You want to compete again but since 3♦ would be forcing you must go via the Lebensohl 2NT bid. Partner will bid 3♣ and you will bid 3♦ signing off.
4. No need to be fancy here: just bid 4♠.
5. Bid a Lebensohl 2NT and pass partner's 3♣ reply.

Humour

A lawyer had a jury trial in a very difficult business case. The client who had attended the trial was out of town when the jury came back with its decision, which was for the lawyer and his client. The lawyer immediately sent a telegram to his client, reading "Justice has triumphed!" The client wired back, "Appeal at once!"

Drive carefully. 90% of the people on the road are caused by accident.

What happened when Jesus went up to Mount Olive?

Popeye beat him up.

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New Letter

Taieri Bridge Club

Issue Number 87 March 2004



As the summer comes to an end bridge players can look forward to a season where their pleasure is independent of the weather -- the tournament season. From March to November there is a variety of tournaments to choose from. Sometimes you have to travel far afield but not always; and whatever your level there will surely be a tournament suitable for you. Even if you haven't played in a tournament before why not give it a go? Playing against a new set of faces is both fun, and good for your game.

Happy Birthday, Jean

Our president Jean Young celebrated her 15th birthday recently and the Otago Daily Times reported the event throughout the South Island. Happy Birthday, Jean!

2004

Reverses and opener's rebid

What's the difference between the following sequences (no opposition bidding)?

- (a) 1♥ - 1♠
2♦
- (b) 1♦ - 1♠
2♥

In both cases the opener has both hearts and diamonds (I'm starting with the obvious!). In (a) she probably has at least 5 hearts and at least 4 diamonds while in (b) she probably has at least 5 diamonds and 4 hearts (I'm continuing with the obvious). Furthermore, in Acol, both sequences virtually force the responder to bid again. However, (b) is a stronger sequence than (a) because it forces the responder to go to the 3 level. Because the *lower* ranking suit has been bid first we call (b) a *reverse*. When you hear your partner reverse you can count on them for at least 16 HCP. What is your opening bid on the following hands and, assuming a response of 1♠, what is your rebid?

- 1. ♠ Q 9; ♥ A J T 9 3; ♦ A K 6 4; ♣ 3 2
- 2. ♠ Q 9; ♥ A K 6 4; ♦ A J T 9 3; ♣ 3 2
- 3. ♠ Q 9; ♥ A K 6 4; ♦ A J T 9 3; ♣ A 2
- 4. ♠ 7; ♥ A K Q 6 4; ♦ A K T 9 8; ♣ K 2
- 5. ♠ K J 9; ♥ A T 9; ♦ K Q J 9 6 4; ♣ 2

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Answers to reverses and opener's rebid quiz.

- 1. Open 1♥ and rebid 2♦. No need to be fancy on this ordinary hand. Your partner cannot at this stage tell how strong you are; but they must bid again even if they simply rebid 2♥ on a two card suit. If you had this hand as the responder you would bid 2♥:
♠ K Q T 8; ♥ 7 6; ♦ Q 3 2; ♣ 9 8 7 6
- 2. Open 1♦ and rebid 2♦. You are not strong enough to reverse by introducing your heart suit (though if responder now bids 2♥ you will happily raise to 4♥).
- 3. Open 1♦ and rebid 2♥. With your big hand you are quite safe in forcing partner to the 3 level. If your partner simply bids 2♠ you ought to raise to 4♠. If they bid 3♥ (most likely a 3 card suit) bid 3NT.
- 4. Open 1♥ and rebid 3♦. This jump shift promises 18 HCP at least and is forcing to game.
- 5. Some might disagree but I think raising to 2♠ is better than rebidding your diamonds; your singleton club is worth more in a spade contract than in a diamond contract. If partner raises to 4♠ on a 4 card suit with as little as
♠ A Q 8 7; ♥ K 6 4; ♦ 8 7 5; ♣ J 3 2
you have reasonable prospects.

Lebensohl: Part 2

Last month I discussed the problems you faced when your 1NT opening is overcalled. This month I'll describe the beginnings of the Lebensohl convention to cope with such interference. Let's imagine that your partner has opened 1NT and the next hand has overcalled 2♥. An invariable rule is that your 2 level suit bids are not forcing (opener had better pass) and your 3 level suit bids *are* forcing (opener had better not pass). The next invariable rule is that *2NT is never natural*; it demands that opener bids 3♣. This 2NT bid occurs in many Lebensohl sequences. The simplest one is that opener simply wants to play in a minor suit at the three level and will either pass or sign off with 3♦. Others that we'll meet next month have to do with showing or denying stoppers in the opponent's suit. Although it is not strictly part of the Lebensohl convention I recommend that doubles of a naturally bid suit should be for take-out. So, what do you bid in the above situation (after partner's 1NT has been overcalled 2♥)?

1. ♠ K Q 9; ♥ T; ♦ A K J 6 5 4; ♣ A 3 2
2. ♠ K Q T 9 5; ♥ Q T; ♦ 6 5 4; ♣ T 3 2
3. ♠ T 9 8; ♥ T; ♦ A J T 6 5 4; ♣ 4 3 2
4. ♠ A K J T 9 5; ♥ T 8; ♦ K 3 2; ♣ K 3 2
5. ♠ T 9 8; ♥ T; ♦ 4 3 2; ♣ A J T 6 5 4

Answers on page 8

Amazing Jane

Jane Archer, one of the stalwarts of the Taieri club, recently celebrated her 90th birthday. Most of us know Jane best through her meticulous organisation of our Saturday afternoon bridge which is one of the most pleasant and relaxed bridge games in town. But perhaps you didn't know that Jane has been playing bridge for a very long time indeed. She learnt the game at aged 11, played it at home with her parents, and has been playing *regularly* ever since!

Jane has been a member at Taieri since its foundation 30 years ago. For most of her bridge playing career Jane was a Goren player; but in the 1990s she took the lessons at the club and learnt Acol which was quite an achievement after so many years of Goren. Nowadays Jane's most frequent partner is Charlotte Annan. When asked to recount some of her bridge triumphs Jane is characterically modest but when pressed recalled her score of 73% with Doreen Carter. Like most of us she reckons she holds worse cards than average but her unfailing cheerfulness continues to inspire us all.

Frieda teaches Voluptua a lesson

Voluptua was beginning to enjoy her bridge. At the age of 18 it was the first time she had faced a mental challenge greater than deciding on her lipstick colour and she was responding to the competitive element with enthusiasm. Trying to encourage her, her Aunt Frieda had agreed to partner her at a regular Monday night game at the club. On the very first hand Voluptua found herself playing (as West) in a 6♥ contract receiving a trump lead.

♠ 9 4	♠ A Q
♥ A J T 9 6 5	♥ K Q 4 3 2
♦ 7 6	♦ A Q 9
♣ A K 2	♣ Q 5 4

Complaining silently there appeared to be very little ruffing she could do despite the 11 card fit she knit her handsome brows and set about drawing trumps. After 4 rounds she noticed that the opponents had stopped following and decided that no further extraction was necessary. Since, in a recent lesson she had learnt about finessing, her next move was a spade to the queen but, to her anguish, it lost to the king and a spade came back. Another finesse then beckoned. She crossed to her Ace of clubs and played a diamond to the queen.

Once again it was topped by the king and she was one down. With an un-ladylike oath she rose to her feet. "That was ****ing wild bidding, Aunt Frieda; you put me in a ****ing impossible contract". She was suddenly conscious that the entire room was staring at her and since her aunt had insisted tonight that she wear a knee long skirt and high necked blouse she realised that she had made an exhibition of bad manners rather than immodesty of attire.

With profuse apologies to Frieda and the rest of the room she resumed her seat and resolved to cultivate a more seemly demeanour. Frieda gamely forebore to explain how the contract was cold realising that Voluptua was in no mood at that time for admonishment.

A few days later however Voluptua herself saw how she could have made her contract. You, reader, may wish to solve the problem before reading on.

As Frieda and Voluptua had realised all that declarer needs to do is draw trumps and play 3 rounds of clubs ending in her hand. Then a diamond to the 9 endplays South. A club return allows a ruff in dummy and the losing spade to be discarded. A diamond or spade removes the guess in that suit.