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BRIDGE TODAY



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The Magazine for People Who Love to Play Bridge

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Play the New York \$12,000 Open

Adam Wildavsky tests you with 24 real-life problems in this "virtual" Individual tournament. Page 10.

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————— *Welcome to our first Internet Edition! We are now a monthly!* —————

ALERT: Please do not email this emag to anyone. Much time, energy and money was spent to produce this product, and most people can afford to pay for it. If you would like someone to see an issue, please contact us with his email address (write to matt@bridgetoday.com) and we'll gladly pass on a sample excerpt. Subscriptions are \$33 per year for 12 monthly issues.

Cruise Control



by Daniel Helman

It was a Saturday night imp pairs game in Portland. I was North, partnered by Tom Weeg. West was Jack Marsh, playing with his 10-year-old grandson, Nick Flores.

West dealer North
None vul ♠ A K 10 9
 ♥ 8 7 6 2
 ♦ A K J 2
 ♣ 5

South
♠ 7 2
♥ A Q J 5 3
♦ 10 6 3
♣ Q 8 4

West	North	East	South
pass	1 ♦	pass	1 ♥
pass	3 ♥	pass	4 ♥
(all pass)			

Opening lead: ♦9

“Sometimes you’re cruising along without a care in the world...”

Trick one: ♦9, ace, 5, 3
Trick two: ♥2, 4, queen, king
Trick three: ♦8, king

...when a tree jumps into the middle of the road and you discover that you neglected to buckle your seatbelt! West held:
♠ J 8 ♥ K 10 ♦ Q 9 8 7 4 ♣ A 10 3 2.

Hand of the Month

The following hand was played in a Grand National Team event by Kit Woolsey, and reported by Chip Martel.

You reach 6NT with no bidding by the opponents.

North
♠ K Q 6
♥ A
♦ Q J 10 6 5 4
♣ 7 6 5

♦ 9

South (you)
♠ A 5 4
♥ K Q 6 5 4 3
♦ K
♣ A K J

The ♦9 is led to the 4, ace, king. East returns the ♣2 to your ace and West’s 3. A heart is led to the ace, all following, and the ♦Q is cashed, on which RHO throws the ♠2.

Two questions:

- (1) How good are your chances?
- (2) How do you play from this point?

Solution

Your chances are good if you play this right. In fact, you have a one-hundred-percent chance.

You have 11 sure tricks and West is guarding the diamonds. If hearts are 3-3, this hand wouldn’t be here. If East has four or more hearts, you have a double squeeze. Let’s look at this (turn to the next page, please):



Solution to Hand of the Month

You reached 6NT with no bidding by the opponents.

	North ♠ K Q 6 ♥ A ♦ Q J 10 6 5 4 ♣ 7 6 5	
West ♠ ??? ♥ xx ♦ 9 8 7 3 2 ♣ ???	East ♠ ??? ♥ J x x x ♦ A ♣ ???	
	South (you) ♠ A 5 4 ♥ K Q 6 5 4 3 ♦ K ♣ A K J	

The ♦9 was led to the 4, ace, king. East returned the ♣2 to your ace and West's 3. A heart was led to the ace, all following, and the ♦Q cashed, on which RHO threw the ♠2.

You come to your hand with the ♠A and cash the ♥K-Q, discarding a diamond and a club. Then you cash the spades and diamonds, coming down to this ending:

	♠ — ♥ ♦ 10 6 ♣ 7			
♠ — ♥ — ♦ 9 8 ♣ ?	<table border="1" style="margin: auto;"> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">N</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">W S E</td></tr> </table> ♠ — ♥ J ♦ — ♣ ??	N	W S E	
N				
W S E				
	♠ — ♥ 6 ♦ — ♣ K J			

Notice that West is down to two diamonds and, therefore, has been squeezed to one club. On the ♦10 East must throw a

club to keep the ♥J and so your ♣K-J take the last two tricks.

Now suppose West holds four or more hearts along with his five diamonds. How do you make the contract? Well, look at the ending again, this time with West holding the ♥J:

	♠ — ♥ ♦ 10 6 ♣ 7			
♠ — ♥ J ♦ 9 8 ♣ —	<table border="1" style="margin: auto;"> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">N</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">W S E</td></tr> </table> ♠ — ♥ 6 ♦ — ♣ K J	N	W S E	♠ — ♥ — ♦ — ♣ ??
N				
W S E				

Notice that West is holding three vital cards. He had to throw his last club (if he started with more than one) on the run of your three spade tricks. He was triple squeezed. So you can cash the ♦10 and take a 100% finesse in clubs, assuming you haven't already seen West play the queen!

The full hand was:

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

Between Sessions

Electronic Magazines

by the Granovetters

Sixteen years ago, when we first decided to go into the publishing business, and we were going to buy our first computer, Matthew's cousin suggested we purchase an Apple Macintosh, a crazy new computer with a desktop laser printer and a thing called a mouse. We took his advice and published our first book, *Tops & Bottoms*.



Then we started Bridge Today Magazine and suddenly found ourselves in the forefront of the new-age technology. We didn't know anything about this technology, but it was easy and fun to use!

A few years later when we were in our third year of Bridge Today Magazine, our friend (who passed away a year ago), Phil deBourbon, phoned us and insisted we buy a "fax machine." Well, this seemed a bit luxurious, but we took his advice and with that entered the so-called modern age of communications. Wow, our writers could fax their columns to us instead of using the mail!

Two years later, Matthew was speaking to BT subscriber Marty Seligman about this, and he said it was time we entered the world of the Internet, a newfangled world of electrons, wherein we could send and receive articles and letters cheaply via a modem. We took his advice and tried it. It was great! We bought a modem and after a year or so, very few writers were sending their columns by fax. We were completely immersed in the e-mail mode of thinking and working. Then Lapt Chan, a software

writer, contacted us from New York and suggested we set up a bridge website. With Lapt's help and the help of others the site became Bridgetoday.com.

A few years ago, our rep at the printing press we used in upstate New York suggested we try emailing the entire magazine to him instead of the old-fashioned way of printing it on a laser printer and using express mail. We tried it. It took awhile but it got there in an hour or so. Wow! We still waited for proofs sent through the post office, however. Soon we stopped this process as well, when our printer decided to send us proofs through a thing called the "pdf" file.

In the meantime, unfortunately, bridge players were leaving bridge or (worse) passing away (we recently read that more than 1,000 ACBL members are lost each month!), paper prices were going up, and U.S. mailing costs were skyrocketing. It had become more efficient to make Bridge Today but more costly to produce it. So we ventured into other areas of publishing, which had less of an overhead, such as Email Bridge Courses and a twice-a-week Bridge Today Digest-Online, which arrives by email or pdf attachment.

A year ago, we met with Cliff Meltzer, a former bridge club owner who moved to Silicon Valley a few years ago with his wife Rose, to work in the computer industry. Cliff's vision is another electronic step forward: a website that teaches bridge to

limitless numbers of people on their home computers. Why a website and not a book? Because where are potential new players to be found but on the Internet? And by using a website, we could — if we did it right — make the lessons interactive, with quizzes, scores, moving graphics and questions answered by lightening speed email. A book can't do that.

We decided to take on the task of popularizing the game we all love via this new system of communication. With the help of software wizard Roger Dunn, formerly of BridgePassion.com, we began to build a new Bridgetoday.com, dedicated to providing non-bridge players with a place to learn the game and providing seasoned bridge players with a daily dose of top-level bridge. We even enlisted Bob Hamman to write a weekly quiz, based on his own unique ideas. This project is almost completed and will be up and running soon.

Well, finally, we had to take the plunge with Bridge Today Magazine as well. This would help financially, bring the magazine to greater numbers of people, offer a more timely magazine, and increase our ability to produce 12 issues per year instead of six. This is our first issue, using pdf format, but in the future we hope to improve and find ways to make the magazine interactive as well. We are open to suggestions from readers on how to make Bridge Today a truly wonderful emag, because as you can tell by now — we like to listen to good advice!

Coming Attractions

Vanderbilt Memories
by Barnet Shenkin

The author reveals the hands that are still keeping him up at night!

Why I Lose at Bridge
by Barry Rigal

An outline of ways to eliminate those annoying flaws in your game

Lonely Hearts
by Pamela Granovetter

Dear Ms. LH, Why do players suppress their heart suit just because partner raised spades?

The Tell Principle and the Forcing Notrump
by Steve Bloom

More exploration into newer and better ways to bid.

The Email Bidding Forum

Readers have their say once again in this new hi-tech email forum.

Who is Bridget O'Day?

She resides at the new Bridgetoday.com coming soon to the Internet!