

Marin Unit 508 Benefit for Homeward Bound of Marin

Virtual Club Game & Zoom Party
December 27, 2020

NEWSLETTER

MARIN UNIT'S HOLIDAY BENEFIT A GRAND SLAM



JANICE SEAMON MOLSON

I always avoid charity benefits as it becomes impossible to draw a line. This cause brought tears to my eyes. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to participate!



ANNE HOLLINGSORTH

This game provided the opportunity to play with some of the best players in the world. I was thrilled to play with a World Champion - that chance may never come again! There were World Champions and Grand Life Masters who offered their time to help raise monies for a very worthy cause. And raise money they did!



GEORGE JACOBS

Cool event, well organized, wonderful cause. I'll be back.

RECORD-BREAKING AMOUNTS RAISED

Marin Unit Virtual Holiday Game and Benefit raises over \$153,000

"This ingenious, first-of-a-kind fundraiser for Homeward Bound was a huge success and everyone at Homeward Bound is extremely grateful to Tracey and Melanie whose skill and creativity was key to 'bridge' this holiday event from in-person to online."

-Mary Kay Sweeney, Executive Director of Homeward Bound.

The Marin Unit's virtual Holiday Benefit on December 27, 2020, was a huge success, with the glitterati of the bridge world turning their talents into a big win for Homeward Bound of Marin. 37 well-known bridge professionals and experts from across North America volunteered to play in the Marin Unit's Holiday Game with the winning bidders in a silent auction. Bidders from all over the country vied for this rare opportunity to play with and learn from these world-class players.

Through the silent auction and donations, the Unit raised over \$153,000 for Homeward Bound of Marin, a local charity that provides shelter, housing, and training to families and individuals facing homelessness. This is the most money the Unit has ever raised in its 10+ years of supporting Homeward Bound at its holiday party.

66 pairs played in the Open competition, playing 18 boards. Fittingly for a charity game, two pairs tied for first place. Said one of the winners, Mansoor Gowani, who played with Grand Life Master, Val Kovachev,

"It was a great tournament to play in, not only because of its cause and the \$ 150,000 it raised due to hard work done by its tireless volunteers, but also because of its structure which involved the participation of many bridge experts who are at the top of their professional skills. And this gave an opportunity to enthusiastic players, who generally do not play in the national events, to play against these experts."

Congratulations to the overall winners in the Holiday game:

Valentin Kovachev - Mansoor Gowani	64.76%
Ishmael Del'Monte - Margaret Hart	64.76%
Olivia Schireson - Nicolas Hammond	63.28%
David Yoon - John McAllister	62.93%
Tracey Bauer - Jacqueline Zayac	61.72%
Mike Passell - Jane McLaughlin	60.76%
Janice Seamon-Molson - Anne Hollingsworth	60.24%
Penny Berman - Carole Liss	59.72%
Gabrielle Sherman - Sunil Singh	59.46%
Walter Schafer Jr - Andrew Altman	58.85%

Honor list (Overall leaders)

Rank	Name	Score (%)	Points	Stratum
1	valani+gowani	64.76	2.89	A
1	ishd+flop2	64.76	2.89	A
3	oschireson+nhammond	63.28	1.86	B
4	Reminisce+jgm7x	62.93	1.39	B
5	MarinTlc+JackieZ CA	61.72	1.10	B
6	passell+mclfamatsf	60.76	1.10	A
7	janicem+scootcat	60.24	0.77	A
8	diego127+caroleliss	59.72	0.77	B
9	Gab7NT+radsun	59.46	0.77	B
10	schafer+andy3625	58.85	1.10	A

A full analysis of the hands played on December 27 follows.
Thank you to each of the professionals who created these analyses.

ANALYSIS OF HANDS

played December 27, 2020

Hand 1

Gabrielle Sherman

I found board one most interesting from a matchpoint perspective. Partscore battles like these are really the essence of matchpoint bridge. On the lie of the cards, N/S make 4D and E/W are down one in 3H, or possibly two on great defense (holding up the club ace). Best for E/W is to compete to 3H, putting pressure on N/S. Should they compete to 4D? Should they double to protect their 3D partscore? Questions like these are what make matchpoints so much harder than IMPS.

Other interesting issues on the board: Will North open the bidding a bit light? Certainly, if you play an aggressive opening style, but maybe it's a non-vul opening even if you're a solid bidder. After all, you have two aces and a nice suit that you wouldn't mind having your partner lead should opponents steal the hand. Assuming North passes, the auction continues pass, pass, then West will open one club, North doubles, East competes with one heart, followed by two diamonds by South. Now West happily raises to 2H and North, his hand all diamond-y should compete to 3D. East now has the chance to make a brilliant matchpoint 3H call, made especially appealing given his fit in clubs. Now the pressure is on N/S. As they say, matchpoints is a bidder's game.

Dir: N		1
Vul: None		
11	♠ A 6 5	
12 7	♥ 9 6 5 3	
10	♦ A Q J 4	
	♣ 3 2	
	♠ 9 8 7 3	♠ K J 4
	♥ A K 8 2	♥ Q 10 7 4
	♦ 10 7	♦ 6 2
	♣ K Q 9	♣ J 10 8 4
		♠ Q 10 2
		♥ J
		♦ K 9 8 5 3
		♣ A 7 6 5

Hand 2

David Smith

This board presented West with a difficult opening bid problem (except for the one pair playing a strong club system).

Some players (7) elected to open 1D while the remainder of the field (25) opened with 2C. While opening 1D feels like an underbid it does have the advantage of more easily exploring for a minor suit slam by rebidding 3C over partners anticipated major. It also gives partner the possibility of rebidding hearts which would give West an easy raise to 4H.

The players that opened 2C were faced with a rebid problem when partner responded 2D. Most of the players (18) rebid 3D while a few of the players (6) rebid 2NT. This hand was discussed by the pros in the zoom meeting following the event and the consensus was to open 2C and rebid 2NT. This has the advantage of:

- 1) Limiting the value of your hand (not forcing to game)
- 2) Allowing partner to use Jacoby Transfer with 5+ hearts
- 3) The lead coming up to the stiff K of spades if the contract is NT.

Regardless of the opening bid, however, pretty much all roads led to 3NT and the result ranged from making 4 to making 7 depending on the opening lead and how well declarer read the discards while running their 5 diamond tricks.

Dir: E		2
Vul: N-S		
4	♠ Q J 9 6 4	
22 7	♥ J 2	
7	♦ 9 8 7 2	
	♣ 8 4	
	♠ K	♠ A 7 3 2
	♥ A Q 7	♥ 10 9 8 4
	♦ A K Q 10 6	♦ 5 4
	♣ A 10 7 3	♣ K 9 5
		♠ 10 8 5
		♥ K 6 5 3
		♦ J 3
		♣ Q J 6 2

ANALYSIS OF HANDS

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Hand 3

Bob Crossley

Everyone played in some number of spades (except 2 pairs in 3 D -1), so this is a defensive hand. There are 7 tricks available on defense, but less than half the pairs took them. West leads his singleton club and declarer should play dummy's CK and follow with the C2 to make it appear West started with J87.

East should assume a singleton (otherwise West would have led a diamond where he obviously has length) and return the C3, suit preference for diamonds, the lowest suit. West ruffs and returns a diamond for another club ruff (East leads the 9 this time for the higher suit, hearts. The defense then takes the HAK and leads a 3rd heart. Declarer still has to lose a trick to the SJ, -2 in 2 spades for 73%.

Dir: S

Vul: E-W

3

♠ 10 4
♥ 9 4 3
♦ K J 5
♣ K Q 10 6 4

9
8 12
11

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

♠ AK 9 8 5 2
♥ Q J 10
♦ 9
♣ J 8 2



I so enjoyed the event. The video was well done and thought comments by pros was a nice added touch. It was a very worthy cause and I wish every state would get involved with this worthwhile project. Kudos to those who worked so hard to put this on.

- Margaret Hart, who tied for overall first place, playing with Grand Life Master, Ish Delmonte

The event was very well organized and raised lots of money for an amazing and worthy organization. Plus, it was a real hoot to see old friends along with new faces. Speaking of the old friends, so great to see none of us is getting any older!

-Sharon Osberg, World Champion



ANALYSIS OF HANDS

played December 27, 2020

Hand 6

Robert Todd

Pay Attention -- "What have the opponents shown"

Dealer E
E. S. W. N.
P P 1D P
2D* 2S 3D 3S
4D. All Pass

Auction Notes

After an opening bid and an inverted minor raise (showing about 9-11 by a passed hand), South overcalls with their strong Spade suit. Everyone further competes until West wins the contract in 4D.

Opening Lead

North leads the S10. When leading partner's suit after support leads are generally attitude oriented, top of nothing and low from an honor.

Play Notes

South wins the first Spade with the Queen. Cashes the SA at trick 2. And then shifts to their singleton HQ. From here, Declarer should take the rest of the tricks!! If the Declarer counts, they should know that South has the SAKQ and HQ. That is 11 HCP. Since they are a Passed hand then North must have all of the rest of the HCP. So Declarer should win the HK in their hand. Then they should lay down the DA (don't take a finesse you know is going to fail). Declarer gets rewarded today. The singleton King falls and the Declarer can play up the Jack and back down to their DQ8 and finesse South D10x. Now the Declarer can play a Club to the Jack, being confident that North has the CQ. Then back to their CK and now take the Heart finesse, leading up to the HT (knowing North must have the HJ as well). When the dust settles Declarer will have 3H, 4D, and 4C for 11 tricks!

Dir: E

Vul: E-W

6

12 11

11

♠ 5 3

♥ K 5 4 2

♦ A Q 8 7

♣ K 6 3

♠ 10 8 4 2

♥ J 9 8 7 6

♦ K

♣ Q 9 2

♠ J 9

♥ A 10 3

♦ J 9 4 2

♣ A J 8 4

♠ A K Q 7 6

♥ Q

♦ 10 6 5 3

♣ 10 7 5

6

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—Robert



Robert Todd's Adventures in Bridge

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www.advinbridge.com

ANALYSIS OF HANDS

played December 27, 2020

Hand 7

Mike Passell

Board 7 is interesting. After a normal 1 diamond opener, the next hand has a 4333 13 count but 4 diamonds so has an easy pass. Next comes a normal 1 spade response followed by a pass. Now the aggressive players will try 3 spades with a nice 13 count and a singleton club. The saner ones will raise to 2 with only 1 ace bad trump and no 5-card suit. The 13 count should stay quiet and defend either 2 spades or 4 spades. Now the opening leader should easily lead a diamond as leading shortness is the best way to promote a trump trick. Declarer will now take either 8 or 9 tricks depending on finding the Spade Queen. An interesting small hand.

Dir: S		7
Vul: Both	♠ K 10 5 3 ♥ K J 9 4 ♦ A Q 4 2 ♣ 4	
13		
6 13		
8		
♠ Q 2	♠ 8 7 4	
♥ A 7 6 5 2	♥ 10 8 3	
♦ 6 5	♦ K J 10 7	
♣ 7 6 3 2	♣ A K Q	
	♠ A J 9 6	
	♥ Q	
	♦ 9 8 3	
	♣ J 10 9 8 5	

Hand 8

Gene Simpson

Auction should go
 P-p-1d-p
 1h-p-1n-p
 P-p

Diamond lead and ew have 6 tricks.

Hand 8 (another perspective)

George Jacobs

After P, P, 1D, my partner, Peter, made a great overcall of 1NT with only a 14 count.

After winning the Diamond King with the Ace, he knocked out a Club. East gave the best defense when he led A, K, and a 3rd Heart, getting the defense 3 Hearts, 2 Clubs, and a Diamond for making 1. We got 76%. There wasn't too much to the play, so why did we get such a good score? Peter won the hand in the bidding. Whether he passes or says double, E-W are likely to buy the hand in 1 Heart, where we get 6 tricks for -80. Some would open 1NT with 14, but not very many would overcall, where the upper limit is 18. Good job Peter.

Dir: W		8
Vul: None	♠ A Q 8 ♥ J 10 6 ♦ 10 9 5 ♣ 10 9 6 3	
7		
7 12		
14		
♠ 10 7 6 3	♠ 9 4 2	
♥ 9 7 5 2	♥ A K 4	
♦ K 8	♦ Q 7 3 2	
♣ A 4 2	♣ K 8 5	
	♠ K J 5	
	♥ Q 8 3	
	♦ A J 6 4	
	♣ Q J 7	

ANALYSIS OF HANDS

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Hand 9

Jim Griffin

The auction is fairly straightforward, and unless you are playing a weak NT, the auction should go:

N E S W
 1NT P 2C P
 2H P 3NT
 All pass

With:
 Kxxx
 10xx
 xx
 KJTx

The result you receive depends entirely on the opening lead. Knowing North has 4H and South has 4S (he did bid Stayman), it seems normal to lead from the KJTx of clubs. The normal lead (the J from the top of the internal sequence) will make it fairly simple to take the first 4 club tricks and hold the contract to nine tricks. This results in a 72% result.

Dir: N

Vul: E-W

16

7 7

10

♠ 5 3 2
 ♥ J 7 3 2
 ♦ 9 3
 ♣ A Q 8 4

♠ J 8
 ♥ A K 6 5
 ♦ A K J 10
 ♣ 5 3 2

♠ K 7 6 4
 ♥ 10 8 4
 ♦ 6 4
 ♣ K J 10 6

♠ A Q 10 9
 ♥ Q 9
 ♦ Q 8 7 5 2
 ♣ 9 7

9

Hand 10

Gabrielle Sherman

This board is primarily a test of N/S's bidding and declaring acumen. Hopefully South will judge to pass initially. Not only is he vulnerable at matchpoints, but he also holds a mere 11, non-suited points with the dreaded 4x1 shape. It has been my experience that passing marginal 4x1 hands yields outstanding results, as this particular shape plays a lot more poorly than most think.

West will open 1C and North will overcall 1D. Following a pass by East, South should now advance with 1N. While he's a maximum for a passed hand, his singleton diamond substantially reduces the value of his hand, given partner's bidding.

South's 1N call should get passed out, as none of the other hands has anything much to say, including partner, who holds an inauspicious stiff heart and insufficient values to pursue game, even at IMPs, let alone at matchpoints.

West will lead the obvious spade, and now it's up to declarer to show his mettle. The most obvious route to maximum tricks lies in developing the diamond suit, which seems promising given West's opening bid, suggesting he holds the king, and his likely three-card holding, considering his opening club bid. A diamond to the jack, followed by the ace and low, will give declarer four tricks in the suit, with +120 as the likely final result.

Dir: E

Vul: Both

13

13 3

11

♠ Q J 10 9
 ♥ Q 10 9
 ♦ K 6 2
 ♣ A J 5

♠ A 6 4
 ♥ 6
 ♦ A Q J 7 5
 ♣ Q 8 4 3

♠ 8 5
 ♥ K 8 7 4 2
 ♦ 10 9 4 3
 ♣ 10 7

♠ K 7 3 2
 ♥ A J 5 3
 ♦ 8
 ♣ K 9 6 2

10

ANALYSIS OF HANDS

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Hand 11

Ron Smith

Count then deduce

WEST
 ♠A65
 ♥962
 ♦J643
 ♣1054

N	E	S	W
		1♦	P
2♣	P	2♠	P
2N	P	3N	P
4N	P	5♣	P
6♣	P	6N	

Partner leads the heart 3.

There seems to be confusion in the auction. North meant his bid as quantitative, but South answered that he had one Ace.

Dummy

♠Q972
 ♥AQ10
 ♦K9872
 ♣J

Declarer wins the ♥ King in hand and crosses to the ♣ Jack. Declarer takes the two heart tricks and throws the ♠4 on the 3rd heart. Declarer now leads a diamond to his Ace and rattles off five more clubs. Partner discards his remaining 2 hearts and plays the ♠8 (the 3 if playing upside down). You can afford one diamond and a spade. What is your final discard?

The other two hands:

North (declarer)	East
♠J4	♠K1083
♥K7	♥J8543
♦A105	♦Q
♣AKQ973	♣862

We now have a full count with 4 cards and one to discard. Partner's ♦Queen has to be a true card. (Even Zia wouldn't false card here) Declarer has two diamonds and one spade left. If his spade is the King, he would have established it for his 12th trick. Throw your Ace away and avoid being endplayed.

Hand 11 (from the other side)

Walt Schafer

My RHO pitched one diamond early, then spades, so I was pretty sure RHO had started with ♦Jxxx. That meant they were down to ♦Jx and one high spade. (Ronnie couldn't have both ♠AK and not lead it, right?) So RHO has at least one of the ♠AK. If my RHO had started with both high spades, there would have been no defense. As it was, I had to hope that RHO's high spade was the Ace. I exited with a spade... ♠K - ♠Q - ♠A. :) RHO missed the chance to discard their liability, the ♠A, to set the contract.

[To the super deep thinkers: I was going down when cold if the hearts were 4 - 4 and LHO had ♠A and RHO had ♠K. I was aware of that. I didn't want to pitch the ♦10 from hand unnecessarily and make the situation any clearer. I knew Garner would lead 5th best (or 3rd best) in a heartbeat, I was thinking about that. I thought it was odd that Ronnie would lead 5th best, but I trusted RHO's carding knowing Ronnie could always be up to something. You don't Win/Place in over two dozen NABC+ events by just sitting there. But I'm updating my notes Ronnie! You used to be more of a down-the-middle, solid citizen. (he was a Roth-Stoner). Now... hangin' around the Juniors too much???)

Dir: S

Vul: None

17

5 6

12

♠A65
 ♥962
 ♦J643
 ♣1054

♠J4
 ♥K7
 ♦A105
 ♣AKQ973

♠K1083
 ♥J8543
 ♦Q
 ♣862

♠Q972
 ♥AQ10
 ♦K9872
 ♣J

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ANALYSIS OF HANDS

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Hand 12

Mitch Dunitz

West opens 1C and North has to decide whether to overcall on a poor suit at unfavorable colors. Most North's would bid 1 Spade.

East passes and now South has a tricky decision. Do you advance with one or two no trump? One no trump seems conservative. South bids two no trump.

West passes. Should north pass or bid 3 hearts? Having overcalled on a marginal hand, I would pass.

If you pass, west may very well lead a heart (yum). This will lead to 7 or 8 tricks. If instead, west leads a club, two no Trump should fail.

For the brave north's that bid 3 hearts over 2nt, they will probably get raised. 4H will play well. A club will be led. Declarer will play on spades, and when the smoke clears, declarer will likely finish down one.

Dlr: W

Vul: N-S

9

13 5

13

♠ A 10 9 3

♥ K Q 9 7

♦ Q

♣ Q 9 8 2

♠ J 8 7 6 2

♥ A 10 3 2

♦ 8 5 4

♣ A

♠ K Q

♥ 6

♦ 10 9 7 6 3 2

♣ 10 5 4 3

♠ 5 4

♥ J 8 5 4

♦ A K J

♣ K J 7 6

12

Learn from a Pro

We hope you're finding these hand reviews instructive and enjoyed playing in the game. Many of our pros have comprehensive websites, offer classes, and play with clients.

If you are interested in learning more, contact information is set out below:

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ANALYSIS OF HANDS

played December 27, 2020

Hand 13

Matthew Granovetter

I was North on this board, what fun. All I could do was "enjoy" the show. When you have a one-point hand, you should try to help partner on defense by giving count.

They reached 3NT. Many pairs stopped in a notrump partscore when West bid 1NT over 1H or bid 2C and passed partner's 2NT rebid. East has 14 points and not 12, so maybe East is the one who should bid 3NT over 2C.

Everyone led a heart. Now a number of declarers chose to lay down the club ace, because there are so few entries to dummy. Is that the best play? It loses when the clubs are 3-2 with the king inside. Some declarers led a diamond to the king and then took the club finesse. But if clubs are 4-1 with the king inside, you still need to drive out the king by playing ace and another. It's a close decision. Another key card in the hand was the king of spades, as everyone found out.

Well, the "Rabbi's rule" (when the king is a singleton, don't finesse) worked. The club king fell and with the ace of diamonds inside, declarer was looking at an amazing Geza Otlik, Adventures in Card Play, type ending.

At our table, after the CK dropped, declarer led a diamond to the king, unblocked the other heart honor and ran the clubs, coming down to six cards in everyone's hand.

Dir: N	13
Vul: Both	♠ J 8 6 3
	♥ 7 3
1	♦ 7 5 2
11 14	♣ 8 7 4 2
14	
♠ A 2	♠ Q 9 5 4
♥ J 8 5 2	♥ A K
♦ K 3	♦ J 8 6 4
♣ Q J 9 6 5	♣ A 10 3
	♠ K 10 7
	♥ Q 10 9 6 4
	♦ A Q 10 9
	♣ K

North irrelevant	
West	East
A2	Q95
J8	—
3	J86
9	—
South	
KT	
Q9	
AQ	
—	

On the 9 of clubs, East throws a spade. South is squeezed in three suits. Suppose South throws a diamond: then declarer can play anything to end play him for another trick. If South goes up with the ace of diamonds when a diamond is led and continues diamonds, the ending is simpler:

North irrelevant	
West	East
A2	Q95
J8	—
--	J8
9	—
South	
KT	
Q9	
Q	
—	

On the C9, East throws a spade and South must discard his DQ, else give away an immediate trick. But South will soon be endplayed anyway.

At our table, my partner threw the H9, but declarer may have been so happy over the club king dropping, that the H9 wasn't noticed, and we ended up holding the contract to 600. We still received only 37.5% for following suit. Such is life.

ANALYSIS OF HANDS

played December 27, 2020

Hand 14

Gabrielle Sherman

Experienced players often prefer IMPs to matchpoints, because the latter tends to reward bad bidding, and this board is a perfect example of this principle.

Following a 1C opening by South, West should properly overcall 1S, which is likely to get passed out. Several players chose the incorrect call of 1N, instead of the normal 1S overcall, and, as often happens in matchpoints, were rewarded for their questionable bid.

As it turns out, good defense holds declarer to 1 of either contract, giving the win to the imperfect bid.

Hand 14 (another perspective)

Anam Tebha

Unless you're playing a 14-16 NT range, S has a normal 1C opener.

W's hand is on the cusp of a "Double and Bid" type of hand. Even though it falls into the balanced 15-18 NT range, I wouldn't overcall 1NT. It's too easy to miss a game or play the wrong partscore. For me, it's a choice between a 1S overcall and X.

If you elect to X, you have easy bids following that unless partner bids 1S. Over a 1S by advancer, I would raise to 2S which I prefer to play as "showing extras". I fully expect partner to cooperate on hands where game is good, but we might miss a marginal game. With partner's range being 0-8(9) HCP, they would be making moves when they are in the 5-9 range after the 2S bid. If you don't play that raising 1S to 2S shows extras then you're forced to bid 3S, which might be the choice of many players anyway.

If you elect to overcall 1S, consider what you'll do over this auction: (1C) 1S (X) P || (2H)? ...Now, passing can be disastrous. You might make 2S, or go -1 vs their 110. Yet, you have no perfect continuation. Rebidding 2S with 5 only S is asking for trouble although you might survive. You don't have the ideal shape for a t/o X. So, what is the least of all evils? To me, that's X. Your partner is likely to have at most 2H and it's worth nothing that unless they have a decent 5cminor, as long as they have a doubleton S, they'll try 2S before bidding 3m. Even if their shape is 22(54), they might try 2S, but with that shape, 2NT to pick a minor is reasonable over which you'd try 3C.

On this deal, W's overcall of 1S will lead to E/W playing 1S. If W X's, they'll still likely end up in 1S on the auction (1C) X (P) 1D || (P) 1S (P) P (P) unless N fancy's a 1H bid, which is not unreasonable—I would be more inclined to bid as such if we were NV against Vul.

Please note that S shouldn't balance with 1NT. This would show 17-19 Bal, typically. They're forced to pass out 1S with the hand they have as they have too many spades in their hand to make a re-opening X. S knows N has a hand too weak to bid over 1S. E has a total max pass, but they don't have a fit to raise and can't bid 1NT. They know their partner is in the 17-19 HCP range. With 20+HCP W might have elected to cuebid and then bid S with only 5, or jump to 2S with 6+ and a good hand.

At my table, W overcalled 1S, and played it there. The defense started with 3 rounds of C, N ruffing the third round. At this point they played a low D to the J and K. Declarer has few options but to unblock hearts and draw trumps. Hoping for S's to be 33 to start or that N took a ruff with long S's. Neither of those things happen on this board, for +80.

It was well played and defended at my table.

Dir: E

Vul: None

3

17 6

14

♠ AK954

♥ A109

♦ A9

♣ Q64

♠ 103

♥ J6543

♦ Q854

♣ 109

♠ 82

♥ KQ

♦ J10632

♣ 8532

♠ QJ76

♥ 872

♦ K7

♣ AKJ7

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ANALYSIS OF HANDS

played December 27, 2020

Hand 15

Mitch Dunitz

How should east advance after his partner opens 1H and rho bids 2C. The sterile distribution and possibility that opener has wasted values in clubs should influence east to cue bid 3C showing a limit raise or better. Now, if opener bids 3H, east should pass.

I foolishly overbid by jumping to 4H.

The defense has to be careful or the contract can make.

North starts with a low diamond. If south wins the ace and woodenly continues a diamond, declarer can ruff, pull two rounds of Trump, and ruff the last diamond. Declarer now plays 3 rounds of spades and ducks a club to either defender. If the hand with long clubs wins the trick, he will be endplayed. If the other hand wins the trick, they will be forced to give the declarer a ruff sluff.

Making 4 - VOILA!

Hand 15 (another perspective)

David Smith

At most tables west will open a light 1H. In some cases, north might overcall a very light 2C. I wouldn't recommend it given the vulnerability.

In both cases ...

East has a classic 3H invitational bid.

It will be tempting to bid 4H but a 3-4-3-3 distribution will dissuade most pairs from bidding 4H. Those that bid 4H will be punished as East has no chance given the lay of the cards.

Dir: S			15
Vul: N-S	♠ J 9		
	♥ 8 2		
11	♦ K 10 4 3		
11 11	♣ A Q J 5 2		
7			
♠ K Q 6	♠ A 8 7		
♥ K 10 6 4 3	♥ A Q 9 7		
♦ 2	♦ J 8 7		
♣ K 9 6 3	♣ 8 7 4		
	♠ 10 5 4 3 2		
	♥ J 5		
	♦ A Q 9 6 5		
	♣ 10		



One of the very pleasant elements of this win for me was that it was very different from my other wins. Many a time you win because your opponents were too generous. This was not the case with this one. The second element was that we were playing online. So you started the board without looking at who your opponents were and you played your normal game. When the game was over and you looked at your good scores you found that even though you played against an expert you played the game to your optimum and that was really satisfying. Of course, I must admit that I was lucky to get the great Pro Val Kovachev

- Mansoor Gowani

ANALYSIS OF HANDS

played December 27, 2020

Hand 16

Gabrielle Sherman

This board is a test of bidding restraint by E/W, as the best shot at a good score comes from preventing opponents from reaching their good game, makeable in either hearts or NT. Often players assume that the best way of confounding the opponents is by getting in their way by overcalling light at the 2-level. This hand is an excellent illustration of how sometimes passing does an even better job of messing up the opponents.

Should East incorrectly choose to overcall 2C (wrong on FOUR counts: partner is a passed hand, he is vulnerable, his suit isn't great and he has the death holding - 3 card suit - in diamonds), N/S will have no problem finding their way to game following a 2H bid by South. Easts with better bidding judgment will put South to the test, as many players did not realize their full value, rightly an invite. In response to North's rebid of 1N, sheepish Souths simply rebid 2H, giving East their victory, earned through proper passivity.

Dir: W

Vul: E-W

14

3 14

9

♠ Q 10 9 5 3

♥ J 4

♦ 8 5 4

♣ 8 7 4

♠ A 6 2

♥ 10 7

♦ K Q J 3

♣ K J 10 6

♠ J 7

♥ K 8 2

♦ A 9 2

♣ A Q 9 3 2

♠ K 8 4

♥ A Q 9 6 5 3

♦ 10 7 6

♣ 5

16

Gabrielle Sherman on New Partnerships



There's nothing better than playing in a new partnership. Limited discussion means partners must look out for each other, being careful with every bid and play they make. When playing in a new partnership one tries to keep things simple and easy, which is generally winning bridge in my experience. Unfamiliar players tend to look out for each other in a way they wouldn't in more seasoned partnerships. For example, just this evening I was invited to an ACBL speedball by an infrequent sponsor, one with whom I had played only once or twice previously. I asked what he wanted to play, then noticed he laid out the basics in his profile: SAYC, 1430, landy, standard carding.

On the first board partner opened 1C and I, holding AQxxx Kxx Kx Q10x, responded 1S to which he rebid 1N. Hmm. I don't generally play SAYC. Is New Minor Forcing even on the Yellow Card? In any case, I decided to rebid 3N, figuring I'd ask my partner between rounds if we have any sort of checkback available. True, we might have missed out on our 5-3 spade fit, but I REALLY didn't feel like playing 2D. If 4S were the only playable spot, so be it. Often in bridge the perfect is the enemy of the good. As it turns out, both 3N and 4S make and it being IMP pairs, there's effectively no score difference between the two contracts.

Learn with Gabby: Gabby was 2nd place finisher in this year's NABC Women's Pairs, and her team was 17th in the most recent WBF World Mixed Teams. Other recent successes include several top-10 national open finishes. She has played the regional circuit professionally for several years with Michael Kamil, her bridge and real-life partner.

Gabby's particular skills in hand evaluation and defensive methods have made Gabby a much sought-after instructor for all levels of players. Contact Gabby at: gabrielle7nt@gmail.com

ANALYSIS OF HANDS

played December 27, 2020

Hand 17

Wafik Abdou

North	East	South	West
P	1C	P	1S
P	1NT	P	P
?			

North has different options:

1. Pass, On a low diamond lead west can be held to 5 tricks (3H,1S,1D) for plus 100 for EW which should fetch about 40% of the MP's since 110 is available for NS.
2. Double, Risks playing a 4-3 D fit when a possible 5-3 H fit is available, South can take 9 tricks in a Diamond contract (2S, 3D, 3C and a club ruff in the short hand). Note EW cannot force S to lose control since the red suits break evenly. If E passes the double that will yield an exceptional score of plus 300, after all, he has the opener's suit behind him.
3. 2H, My choice at the table, after all, it's pairs and majors rule. If EW dares to compete to 2S (insane because of the 4333 shapes) a Double will be profitable for NS. The likely final contract is 2H by N, 8 tricks are available after losing (3H, 1S, 1D). However, a brutal unfortunate guess at trick one after a spade lead can doom the contract. This is what happened to me. The S5 was lead. If I rose with the queen, 9 tricks were available since a spade discard on the C King is available. Playing low made a 2 trick difference, after the Jack forces the Ace (doesn't matter if N pitches a spade on clubs), West wins the first trump and clears spades, East wins the second trump allowing west to score a ruff on the 13th spade, alas scoring 4H, 1S, 1 D for plus 50 and a great score. Top score should be plus 140, 110 should be slightly above average.

Dir: N

Vul: None

11

7 12

10

♠ J 8 7 2
♥ A Q 3
♦ 8 6 5
♣ 9 8 2

♠ A 10 4
♥ 9 8 7 6 4
♦ K Q 9
♣ Q 4

♠ K 6 5
♥ K J 10
♦ A 7 2
♣ J 10 6 3

♠ Q 9 3
♥ 5 2
♦ J 10 4 3
♣ A K 7 5

17



Two impressive things about Homeward Bound are the low administrative expense, secondly, they teach a homeless person how to be productive and regain dignity, rather than just throw money at the problem. As the saying goes teach a man how to fish.

-Wafik Abdou, MD and Grand Life Master

ANALYSIS OF HANDS

played December 27, 2020

Hand 18

George Jacobs

In the Homeward Bound Pairs the final hand, #18, was quite cool. It featured a stepping stone squeeze. This occurs when you have to sever communications between dummy and declarer but you can count on the defender who wins a trick to bring your stranded winner back to life. Watch.

The bidding was (P), 1C by South, (P), 1D by me, (1H), 1S, (P), and 1NT by me.

T-1) Opening lead was HQ ducked.

T-2) HJ won by the King. Poor West has to make his first pitch. It is a small Spade.

T-3) I lead a low Spade toward dummy and East inserts the Queen. I win the Ace.

T-4) I lead a Spade off dummy. This play is called "Low to the low". The Jack wins.

T-5) West shifts to a low Club. There is nothing to be gained by playing the ten so I play low, and sure enough, East has to play the Jack. I duck this trick as well.

T-6) East persists with Hearts and West pitches a Club while I win the Ace.

T-7) Now is the time to unblock the Ace and Queen of Diamonds, stranding my King.

T-8) See T-7.

T-9) Now I play a low Spade and West wins. This sets up a Spade trick while I still have the Club Ace to reach it.

T-10) West plays the 9 of Clubs which is covered with the ten, King and Ace.

T-11) cash the Spade ten.

T-12) exit with a small club with total confidence of where the Queen is. If East had the KQJ of Clubs, he probably would have opened the bidding, and probably would have led one. Plus your "Spidey Sense" is important to have at the table.

T-13) The King of Diamonds is brought back to life by the kind opponent, who had been squeezed out of all his other exit cards.

At any early point, a Diamond pitch is fatal as it gives me 4 Diamond tricks while I still have entries. So this squeeze is very cool. West is forced to pitch losers, but they are valuable losers. The two hands are severed but West has to put them back together. Making 2 was worth 65%. Some scoundrel made 3 but that is another story.

Dir: E

Vul: N-S

10
7 9
14

♠ K J 8 6
♥ 7
♦ J 10 8 3
♣ Q 9 5 4

♠ Q 4
♥ Q J 10 8 6
♦ 7 5 4
♣ K J 3

♠ A 10 7 3
♥ 9 4 2
♦ A Q
♣ A 8 7 6

18

Most bridge players prefer consistency in their partners rather than brilliance. — Matthew Granovetter

World Champion, Matthew Granovetter, is a personal bridge coach and writer. Contact Matthew at granovetterm@gmail.com or visit his website: www.bridgetoday.com



THANK YOU

We have been overwhelmed by the interest generated by our event and the support of the bridge community across the country. With this support, we were able to raise more money than ever before for Homeward Bound, Thank you to everyone who donated, bid, and played in the game on December 27.

We are immensely grateful to many people who helped us bring this event to fruition. We'd like to thank Mary Kay Sweeney, Paul Fordham, Corry Katzenberg, and Maura Thomas from Homeward Bound, Henry Kingdon for running the games, and the Marin Unit Board for its support of this event.

We also thank the bridge professionals and experts who gave so freely and enthusiastically of their time and expertise to help support Homeward Bound's critical mission. You made this event the success that it was.

With gratitude,

Melanie Haddad, Tracey Bauer, and David Smith

Pros

Wafik Abdou
Cris Barrere
Tracey Bauer
Arti Bhargava
Bruce Blakely
Bob Crossley
Ish Del'monte
Mitch Dunitz
Matthew Granovetter
Jim Griffin
Nicholas Hammond
Greg Hinze

George Jacobs
Michael Kamil
Val Kovachek
Billy Miller
Jacob Morgan
Mark Moss
Ed Nagy
Sharon Osberg
Howard Parker
Mike Passell
Mark Ralph
Walter Schafer

Janice Seamon-Molson
Gabby Sherman
Gene Simpson
David Smith
Ron Smith
Steve Smolen
Gary Soules
Anam Tebha
Bob Thomson
Robert Todd
Kit Woolsey
Sally Woolsey
David Yoon

HOMeward BOUND OF MARIN

Homeward Bound of Marin's mission of opening doors to safety, dignity, hope, and independence pairs with a vision that everyone deserves a place to call home. Founded in 1974, Homeward Bound is Marin County's chief provider of shelter and supportive housing for homeless families and individuals

Homeward Bound serves approximately 1,000 people per year in 16 shelter and housing programs. With the onset of COVID-19, it offered rent relief for residents in transitional and permanent housing programs hit hard by loss of income and childcare. All programs have remained open.

HBOM has the highest rating on all major charity rating sites, and almost 90% of the money donated goes to its programs. For more information about HBOM, please visit its website at hbofm.org.



OF MARIN