



The SBU Monthly News

November 2022

Content of Issue 12

What's on in December 2022

The Peebles Congress

Book Review

The Education Debate Continues

Clap Our Clubs

Quick Quiz

It's a Funny Old Game

Results Page

Master Point Promotions

Answers to Quiz

Findlay MacDonald

A report from Minathort

Mike Gallacher

(July 2022)

We regret to inform you that this edition contains the last Quick Quiz – Mike has contributed reliably for the first year of the Monthly News but now needs a break. We thank him sincerely for all the effort he has put in.

Anyone out there prepared to provide a replacement?

Contributions to the Monthly News should be sent to the editor: liz.mcgowan@blueyonder.co.uk

Forthcoming Events

Not too late to enter the **MP Ranked Pairs** on **Sunday 27 November**. 6 events in one day!

A special plea from the organisers of the **Kennedy Trophy**:

New to Bridge? Taking Lessons? A Bridge Teacher?

If you are new to the game, there is a tournament coming up which could give a boost to your masterpoints, or even start your tally. The SBU **Kennedy Trophy** tournament is open ONLY to Novices and Club Masters.

There will be extended time of 8 minutes per board, supportive Tournament Directors, and no danger of meeting very experienced opponents of the Grandmaster variety. This year the tournament will be played online on BBO.

Even if you haven't played online before, give it a go. Playing online removes the possibility of renegeing, revoking or playing or bidding out of turn - so it's a 'safer' place to play!

The tournament will be held on **Sunday 27th November at 11:15am**.

Register to play on the SBU website <https://www.sbu.org.uk/calendar/national-bronze/kennedy-trophy> to give us an idea of numbers: then register (and pay BBO\$7 per player) on BBO from 9:15am on the morning of the tourney.

Bridge teachers – please encourage your students to enter. It's a great way to gain experience and to participate in a national tournament as a new player.

If you have questions, contact rankedpairsconvenor@gmail.com and Sue or Liz will have answers.

And for everyone else – please enter the competition for **your** ranking at:-

<https://www.sbu.org.uk/calendar/national-events>

What to do if you are blocked from entering a BBO tournament.

Tournaments run by the SBU or by clubs using the SBU_X_XXX login restrict who can join the tournament. Occasionally a player entitled to join a tournament is missed off the entry list.

If you are unexpectedly blocked the best thing to do is to message the Director within BBO.

Please include your name so the Director can check you are entitled to join.

The Director will respond to your request and can add you to the tournament list. This may take a couple of minutes.

To send a message select the blue box marked "Lobby" at the bottom left of the BBO screen, select "Private" put the Directors BBO name in the "Chat to" box and type the message.

You can also send a message by selecting "Chat" in the Messages tab on the right of the page.

To find the name of the Director select the "Details" tab and the Director(s) name(s) are shown.

A Director is usually online from 10 minutes before the tournament starts.

(If you add the Directors as friends in the "People" tab, you can check if they are online.)

Register

Details

Entries (11 Max 60)

Partnership Desk (1)

Host: SBU_W_BGG
Start Time: Soon!
Type: Pairs
Boards: 21
Duration: 147 minutes
Scoring: Matchpoints
Movement: Clocked, Barometer
Director: sgdh, sbu_w_bgg.
BBO Points: BBO
Restrictions: Friends / Include web list
Description: +allavail+ +howell+ +rounds6+

The SBU National Congress

10th – 12th March 2023

Peebles Hydro Hotel



Programme:

Friday	2pm	Open Pairs
	17.45	Congress Teams Session 1
	23.00	Nightcap with the Experts
Saturday	10.30	Congress Pairs Session 1
	15.00	Congress Pairs Session 2
	17/30	Drinks Reception and Gala Dinner
	22.00	Midnight Speedball Pairs
Sunday	13.50	Congress Teams Session 2
	19.45	Congress Teams Session 3
	23.00	Prizegiving

The SBU has been running Congresses at Peebles Hydro since the 1970s

It is a unique venue set in a lovely Borders town, but it became too popular, with four or 5 Congresses a year.

Numbers dwindled, and in 2019 we held "The Farewell Peebles Congress"

Under the management of the late Martin Stephens this was a huge success.

And so the decision to leave was rethought.

In March 2021 we returned to Peebles for the first post-pandemic Congress.

We hope to see the regular attenders as well as some who have never been before – it really is worth a visit!

We received this account from a satisfied customer last year...

My first experience of a "Peebles" Congress...

Keen to get back to some face-to-face bridge my (bridge-playing) partner and I persuaded our husbands to come with us to the SBU Peebles Congress in March 2022 – our first ever National Congress.

2022 was never going to be a normal year – Covid 19 and the dreaded masks were still lurking; everyone had slightly got out of the habit of sitting at a card table with a bidding box(!) and it was increasingly difficult to remember how the bidding had gone without a little memo of the contract and opponent's system on the computer screen!

However, everyone was keen to make it work and the atmosphere was excellent – very welcoming for both SBU members and visiting players from outside Scotland. It was a very mixed field, ranging from Dutch and Bulgarian players hoping to get one of the top prizes to members of clubs from northern England and all over Scotland, who were looking forward to a "weekend away". Both the Congress pairs and teams events were organised on a "Swiss" basis so we ended up playing against players of our ability and there were separate prizes for Bronze players.

The 2 husbands decided to play golf on the Saturday and bowed out of the Swiss pairs and it was great to have flexibility for everyone to play as much bridge as they wanted. We all managed a walk along the river and into Peebles on Sunday morning; a beautiful part of the Scottish borders and a shame not to take in some of the local scenery while you can.

I see the brochure and booking form are now out for the SBU Peebles Congress March 2023.

We will definitely be booking in again and I hope to see you there.

Sarah Gunn

For more details and to book visit the SBU Website: [Scottish Bridge Union \(SBU\) Home Page](#)

[Peebles 2023 Congress Brochure](#)

[Entry Form for Peebles 2023](#)

Bridge Books

Findlay MacDonald



I have always enjoyed reading bridge books by authors where they include incidents where they made a mess of a hand – a very rare attribute in those who fly to the heights and then write about how to play bridge perfectly (did you notice a touch of jealousy?). Mike Lawrence and Andrew Robson come to mind.

In Andrew Robson's book "Bridge Secrets", he relates where he made a mistake in an important match and then gives an example of this type of mistake, as follows –

	♠A4	None Vul
	♥9	Dealer S
	♦AK432	
	♣KJ763	
♠QJT8		♠K532
♥75		♥A72
♦JT75		♦98
♣T82		♣AQ95
	♠976	
	♥KQJT863	
	♦Q6	
	♣4	

The bidding: **SOUTH** **WEST** **NORTH** **EAST**
 2♥ Pass 4♥ All Pass

Lead: ♠Q

At the table South won the lead with the ♠A and considered his play. If he led the second spade for a spade ruff, the defence would win, play the ♥A, and then take a second spade and the ♣A for one down. He therefore had to hope that diamonds were split 3-3 so he led over to his ♦Q and back to the ♦AK for a discard. But East ruffed the third diamond with a small trump and Declarer found himself having to overruff. He then led his club to the King, losing to the Ace, followed by the ♥A and a spade winner for the defence – one down.

Where did Declarer go wrong?

Solution

He needed to duck the lead of the ♠Q. What can the defence do?

- (1) If they lead a second spade, Declarer wins, crosses to the ♦Q and ruffs a spade loser with dummy's singleton heart.
- (2) If they switch to a trump to East's Ace and then revert to a spade, declarer wins with dummy's Ace, crosses to the ♦Q, draws trumps and then cashes the ♦AK.
- (3) If they switch to a trump, East ducking his Ace, declarer wins in hand, forces out the Ace of trumps, wins the spade return (best) in dummy, crosses to the ♦Q, draws the last trump and then leads to dummy's ♦AK.

There is no route the defence can take to defeat the contract after Declarer has ducked the opening lead.

The message is, of course, THINK BEFORE YOU PLAY TO THE FIRST TRICK.

How often have you and I started thinking AFTER the first trick is over? It's almost embarrassing.

However, it's good to see a great player like Andrew Robson confess to the same thing in print – one of the many reasons I would recommend this book.

Readers' Letters

The articles on teaching bridge in the September News have provoked some response!

George Roberts, one of the group of teachers at Perth BC who developed the 20-week course, wishes to put the facts straight.

I read John Traill's letter, and agree that there is a lot to be said for seeing rules as guidelines not tramlines ☺
John may or may not be aware that every item of 20-week course provided electronically has word document support that can be edited by teachers to use as they set fit. (This is clearly mentioned in the introductory document to new users.)

Moving on, the one point I feel I need to make is that the 20-lesson course was not based upon the 60-lesson course. Yes, it is ACOL style 12-14 NT and 4-card suit openings.

When Perth Bridge Club addressed the need to look again at teaching in our club it was driven by the fact that 60 lessons was for us too long, with students dropping out, stating the length of the course as a factor. Our template was therefore to see if we could establish an ACOL-style approach that incorporated the more competitive weak 2's that were already well developed. (An Education sub-group decided to adopt 3 Weak twos in preference to then Strong Two system that the 60-lesson course was still based upon.)

A key objective for PBC was to have a full cycle that was just one calendar year. As you say, how many from the 60-lesson course go onto join and play in clubs? Like all clubs we recognised we were more likely to get an improved conversion rate to club players from a shorter course where the emphasis was on playing cards from week 1. Ann Wickens had been using the PBC material in Highland region for upwards of two years providing valuable feedback.

We did, along with Nigel Booth and David Briggs, look at trying to meld the Melville's updated 60-lesson course with the existing PBC 20-lesson course which was already written and in use.

Nigel and David agreed, as did we, that the 20-lesson course was free standing and should remain an alternative. That was when the SBU asked if it could be adopted by them.

Why am I writing to you regarding this? Well, I think that to say the 20-lesson course was based upon the original 60 lesson course is misleading and diminishes the work of the 5 authors at PBC.

My apologies to George: it was not my intention to belittle the effort that his group has put into developing the single-year course. (I hope some of the examples and quizzes from the longer course were of some use.) We want to introduce as many as possible to the joys of bridge, and a resource that gets people playing is clearly invaluable. We had a response from one very satisfied customer:

I have just read the letter from John Trail in the newsletter.

I am using the SBU 20-week course for the 4th (face to face) time this session. I think it is an excellent resource. I would never have had the courage to start teaching bridge without it. It is well-structured and it is perfectly possible for the teacher to make adjustments for the calibre of students in the class.

The number of learners going from these classes into the next stage which is the "Improvers Evening" at the club has greatly increased since we started using this course. I think that speaks volumes for its value.

Elaine Slinn,
Ness Bridge Club, Inverness

The original course was developed with the idea of encouraging players to teach by providing examples, illustrative hands and quizzes for their use, to save them the effort of producing their own material. But its presentation implied that things must be taught in a rigid order, and that three years were required to learn to play. Clearly off-putting!

Ann Wickens was rather busy with preparations for Aviemore, but found time to comment:

I would only add that we are very happy with the 20-lesson course and are getting more people into clubs but also getting many wishing to repeat later parts of the course as it is quite intense. We have been teaching it now for about 4 or 5 years as we trialled it early on. It is also better for smaller clubs without the manpower for teaching over years. We do still dip into the 60-lesson course for our improvers.

Iain Slinn, another member of Ness BC Education Committee, provides some interesting thoughts.

What a thoroughly fascinating contribution from John Trail regarding the success or otherwise of teaching Bridge. It provides much food for thought. I write in the capacity of my Club's Education 'mannie' and also as an assistant in the Club's annual winter Evening Class for beginners.

In 1988 Ness Bridge Club in Inverness started to teach Bridge using TEN lessons. From that first Class some 80% then moved into the Club session of 'intermediates'. where good players played.

Today the Club operates a Beginners class of 4 tables maximum (space and volunteer limitations) and an assistant at each table. The Club's 'teacher' bases the 20-week course on the excellent SBU 20 lesson curriculum. Otherwise known affectionately as the Perth course.

The Club's style is a rigid routine of a maximum 10 minutes 'lecture' and then immediately into card play supervised by an assistant at each table.

I imagine our Class mirrors many throughout the SBU area. Most are aged 50+. Some have never played cards beyond Snap. Some cannot add. Some cannot understand why they should follow 'rules'. And some set your heart a-flutter as you rapidly realise that a particular individual will make an excellent Bridge player.

The Club continues to operate its original policy of an 'Improvers' session offering 'topic' sessions and giving every opportunity for the enthusiasts to progress in a relaxing and fun atmosphere. Experts are on hand when they shout 'Help'!

BUT! by this time the drop-outs may have included those who struggle for varying reasons and announce 'this is not for me'. Some move outwith the area, some get a puppy and some die. The reasons have astonished us.

Turning to the ideas from John Trail his concept of flexibility and fun has a great deal to recommend it. As an assistant at Ness, I am constantly reminded of the utter necessity to keep things simple and light-hearted. My understanding of the SBU's 20-week course is that it is there for any Teaching Volunteer to use in the manner that they see fit according to their own style and the diverse abilities within the Class.

But this can swing in two opposing directions - flexible/fun and excruciatingly detailed, especially when the Teacher gets carried away and completely forgets that they are addressing raw recruits.

And so we come to John Trail's thoughts - what to do to ensure the life-blood of Bridge and the existence of SBU affiliated Clubs.

It is a fact that in the UK many households no longer play cards. This is in complete contrast to a number of countries in Europe. The SBU has valiantly tried to encourage Bridge in primary schools. The stalwarts involved with this will hopefully make their contributions on this topic.

May I suggest that the SBU considers investigating whether or not Clubs here can adopt some useful ideas from those European Clubs.

As John says today's technology could be the route to childrens' interest. The pandemic has even resulted in a multitude of SBU Club members switching from F2F to fireside on-line Bridge.

So: perhaps the SBU should establish a small group to advise on the 'best' Bridge Game for kids to play on-line and ask each SBU Club to promote this on their Club web site with the emphasis "to tell your family and friends".

As for the adults who wish to learn Bridge, I say target the age group 50+ because they are the quickest way to keep Clubs alive. They are the people about to retire looking for a hobby and one that might help to keep the brain sharp. Clubs also provide the 'social' attraction - although on-line play may yet prove the death of such an appeal.

The age groupings between children and 50 years is vast and it may be that it is also a good idea to target the university cadre. The weakness in this direction is that such students are unlikely ever to have played cards, at least until the 'children' get to that age.

SUMMARY

Use the SBU (Perth) 20-week course and keep it light-hearted and fun. In so doing we will at least encourage kitchen Bridge and, if we can convince the new recruits that Club Bridge is not full of stuffy old fuddie duddies, who knows - we might be able to secure the future of Bridge in Scotland.

Iain Slinn
Education Committee member
Ness Bridge Club
Inverness
www.bridgewebs.com/ness

We have also had a response from Norma Bain, sharing her experience of teaching Minibridge in a school, where formal lessons are not possible because of time constraints.

I first taught minibridge in a school in Edinburgh. Like John Traill, I'm a qualified teacher (further education in my case) so I carefully read Lesson One, wrote out a lesson plan and printed out score sheets. My students arrived. I had 20 minutes to teach Lesson One! My plan went in the bin. I asked my students what they knew about cards... and discovered they didn't even know the names of the suits. Which is why we spent all future lessons with spades, hearts, diamonds and broccoli.

I explained we had 52 cards and 4 people to share them. How many cards do we each get? 17? One of my students asked. There were 4 students so to their surprise they got 13 cards each. One arrived late and someone suggested I could give her some cards because we had plenty.

As teachers we need to start where our students are. There's no point in trying to teach bidding when the students don't know the absolute basics.

I am a huge fan of minibridge and have taught it to young people and adults. When I worked we had a session once a week where I taught some colleagues. I encouraged them to have good manners and quoted Liz's admonitions about good behaviour. They got into the habit of, when they won, making an 'L' with finger and thumb, holding it to their forehead and saying 'LOSER' to the opposition. One person asked me if Liz would approve.... I said that Liz's laser stare would turn them into a blackened crisp! They had fun, recognised bridge as a game and were keen to take it further.

The minibridge lessons are an invaluable resource and a great starting point for beginners. Beginner teachers as well as beginner students. Anecdotal evidence admittedly, but my experience is that most bridge teachers are not qualified, experienced teachers. So here I disagree with John. I think we need lessons in a clear format to give teachers confidence. It's unrealistic to ask novice teachers to go off script and create novel, imaginative material. Also, in my experience, it's difficult for some top players to come down to the level of beginners. I once asked a very senior player for advice on teaching bridge. He told me they need to read books. As John says, different teachers use different methods but it is crucial to tailor these methods to suit our students.

Of course we need to try to bring in young people but I think changing their perception of the game is more likely to bring them in than changing the format of the lessons. After all, they won't know what the lessons are like until we lure them in! Catch them young is my opinion. Take minibridge into schools, show them bridge is a game that is not only challenging but fun. By all means use technology but only if it actually fits the purpose.

Sam Punch has done amazing work in trying to drag Scottish bridge into the 20th (deliberate) century. Until recently I received information emails from a very senior member of the SBU which contained such 'jokes' as 'Ladies! Flutter your eyelashes and get your man to pay for your tournament entry fee'. I like to think my formal complaint had some effect on stopping that tedious nonsense. Sam recognises that such knuckle-dragging misogyny is not going to encourage young people to see bridge as an attractive game.

In conclusion, rather than us old-timers discussing what would be good for them – have we actually asked young people their views?

Norma Bain

Clap our Clubs

MILNATHORT

You may remember that Milnathort was the first club to feature in our Clap Our Clubs series. Their success in returning to face-to-face play was recorded in the March Monthly News.

We must congratulate them on their success, undoubtedly thanks to a hard-working committee.

ONE YEAR ON

Milnathort Bridge Club is a small Club with 36 members, the majority of whom are retired pensioners. During Covid and lockdown many of the members acquired new online skills and enjoyed playing in the Online league set up by our treasurer, Jim Marshall.

However, as time went by, they began to miss the social contact with their fellow players and not all members participated online.

Consequently, by the summer of 2021, there was a desire to get back to face to face bridge. During these months the committee drew up a comprehensive, all-embracing, Health and Safety document and protocol. By November it was decided the time was right to 'give it a go'.

With all procedures clearly documented and circulated to the members – flow tests requested, temperatures taken prior to entry, wipeable table-cloths used with all equipment sanitised a trial phased-in period began. Two meetings were held before Christmas, and by February 2022 we were up and running on a weekly basis with 5 or 6 tables regularly in play.

Now, one year on, we are experiencing up to 8 tables on an evening and have welcomed 11 new members into the club.

Presently the members are looking forward to the proposed club investment in more modern scoring equipment as the mempads currently being used are beginning to 'tell their age'.

The Club appreciates greatly the support and encouragement received from SBU. A number of our members do take advantage of the monthly newsletter and enjoy the various stories, challenges re bidding and best play of hands set.

Milnathort Bridge Club – a happy, friendly and flourishing Club.

Liz Pottie (President MBC)

Milnathort has its own website: <https://www.bridgewebs.com/milnathort>

The club meets on Mondays at Milnathort Bowling Club.

For more information contact the Secretary, Gloria Wilson gairneyview@gmail.com

Quick Quiz

Mike Gallacher



1) Putting it all together: Defence

Lead: ♦2	♠62 ♥Q854 ♦QT9 ♣AJT3	
	N W E S	♠T743 ♥962 ♦A753 ♣Q6

Auction:

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
-	-	-	1♠
Pass	1NT	Pass	2♥
Pass	3♥	Pass	4♥
End			

You are East. Partner leads the ♦2 and dummy goes down

- what is your estimate of high card points around the table?
- what is your estimate of the distribution of the suits round the table?

You win dummy's ♦9 with your ♦A.

Based on your estimates of HCP and distribution how are you going to beat the contract?

2) Putting it all together: Declarer

West	East
♠9 ♥AJ974 ♦J65 ♣AQJ5	♠842 ♥QT63 ♦K9 ♣K863

Auction:

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
-	1♠	Pass	Pass
2♥	2♠	3♥	Pass
4♥	End		

North leads the ♠K. South overtakes with the ♠A and returns a spade.

- what can you tell about South's hand?
- how many losers do you have?
- how will you play the contract?

Answers: at the end of the News

It's a Funny Old Game

Can you make 3NT with fewer than 25HCP?

We are taught that 3NT requires at least 25HCP between the hands.

But we soon discover that 25HCP may not be enough, whereas if you have a long running suit you may make game with less.

	♠A6	EW Vul
	♥AQ	Dealer N
	♦AK	
	♣KJ97542	
♠J843		♠KQ
♥9754		♥K8
♦T962		♦QJ8743
♣3		♣AQ6
	♠T9752	
	♥JT632	
	♦5	
	♣T8	

On this hand from a League match the high cards were attracted to North and East

This was auction at table 1:

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
-	1♣	Dbl	Pass
1♦	Pass	3NT	Pass
Pass	Dbl	End	

North is heavy for a 1-opener, but nothing else looks better. If 1♣ is passed out that may not be a bad thing.

East decided that his hand was too strong for a simple overcall and started with a takeout double.

West thought 1♦ was the weakest-sounding response, assuming that partner had Majors for his double.

But this bid excited East: he imagined 6 diamond tricks, 2 clubs and another in the wash.

North thought otherwise.

Perhaps East should run from 3NT doubled – 4♦ is not very expensive.

South obediently led a club against 3NT, and declarer could make only 4 tricks. -1100

Table 2 saw a different approach from East

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
-	1♣	1NT	Pass
Pass	Dbl	2♦	2♥
Pass	3NT	Pass	Pass
Dbl	End		

The 1NT overcall is heavy, but perhaps a more accurate description than the takeout double.

When North doubled East decided that 2♦ might be a safer spot.

South thought he could compete in a Major without showing much in the way of high cards, but North took him seriously and decided in his turn to bash 3NT.

West's double showed solidarity with partner's strong hand – it suggested that partner could safely lead his suit. The diamond lead gave the defenders the tempo. East made 4 diamonds and two clubs for -2. +300.

NS could make 3NT with a combined 22HCP – but only in defence.

Results Page

Diamond Trophy

Our Seniors Pairs was played on Sunday 16 October, 48 boards, scored by Matthew Robb.

Seniors were originally defined as 60+, but the WBF decided that this was too low a limit.

They are gradually raising the qualifying age, by one year every two years.

We have now reached 63... and 46 qualified pairs entered this year.

1	Martin Diamond & David Shenkin	61.75%
2	Robert Clow & Derrick Peden	59.93%
3	Ian & Irene Hunter	57.78%
4	John Burn & Ian McClure	55.25%
5	Earl & Moira McGregor	55.22%
6	Bill Durning & Duncan Roger	54.46%
7	Ray Gallacher & Bill Ross	54.27%
8	Beryl Campbell & Ross Herd	53.87%
9	Paul Maiolani & Jim McMenemy	53.02%
10	John Dick & John P Hamilton	52.98%

Thea Teale Bronze Pairs

Played simultaneously in 4 Districts on Sunday 13 November.

62 Pairs took part, full details on Anna Gudge's website:

<http://www.ecatsbridge.com/sims/results.asp?eventid=007458>

1	Sheila & Joe Fell	(West District)	64.09%
2	Jonathan Gibson & Stewart Green	(East District)	64.02%
3	Brian & Patricia Wilkie	(Central District)	62.66%
4	Gill & Douglas Gordon	(Central District)	60.27%
5	Steven Henderson & Derek McClachlan	(East District)	59.59%
6	Paul Kerr & David McLeod	(Ayrshire District)	56.50%
7	Dorothy Dunbar & Wilma Haliburton	(Central District)	56.44%
8	John McManus & David Wilbrahm	(Ayrshire District)	56.29%
9	Arthur Robb & Henry Webb	(West District)	56.14%
10	Sheila Blair & Kirsty Hassall	(West District)	55.85%

Master Point Promotions

October 2022

National Master

Ross Herd C

Scottish Master

Roland Bradbury A

David Hodge A

Ian Thomson E

Regional Master

Howard Greenwell C

Robert Waugh E

4 Star Master

Lyn Wilson W

2 Star Master

Sheila Mitchell W

1 Star Master

Jean Henry E

Elizabeth Morris A

Jim Morris A

Master

Alison Holwill E

District Master

Ann Gray A

Ian Guthrie E

Joyce Roxburgh N

Local Master

Bill Elliot E

Bob Gil W

Antone Huang E

Viv Nisbet W

Johan Sinclair A

Sue Sutherland E

Nigel Swallow S

Club Master

Anne Adrain A

John Aitchison E

Sheena Clayton W

Robert Dorland D

Cherry Howie W

Douglas Howie W

Fiona Lewis C

Mary Pollock W

Answers to Quiz:

1	♠62 ♥Q854 ♦QT9 ♣AJT2	
♠J9 ♥K3 ♦KJ62 ♣K9874	N W E S	♠T743 ♥962 ♦A753 ♣Q6
	♠AKQ85 ♥AJT7 ♦84 ♣53	

- a) You have 6 points. North has 9. South has not got enough to invite game. Give her 14-15. Therefore partner has 10-11.
- b) South is showing 5-4 in the majors. When you count North's major suits with your own you can quickly work out that spades round the table going clockwise are 5-2-2-4 and hearts 4-2-4-3. When partner leads the ♦2 you know she has 4, therefore diamonds round the table are 2-4-3-4 and clubs are 2-5-4-2
- c) You win the first trick with the ♦Ace. There are no Kings visible and partner has 10-11 points. Partner will have the minor suit kings and hopefully the ♥K, which will always give her a trick. Lead the ♣Q and when partner gets in with the ♥K she will also score the ♣K and the ♦K.

2	♠KQJT653 ♥K ♦AQ7 ♣72	
♠9 ♥AJ973 ♦J65 ♣AQJ5	N W E S	♠842 ♥QT64 ♦K9 ♣K863
	♠A7 ♥852 ♦T8432 ♣T94	

- a) South does not support his partner's opening bid so has less than 6 points. He takes the opening lead with the ♠Ace and returns a spade which you ruff. He cannot have the ♥K or he would have responded to his partner's opening bid.
- b) Counting losers, you have 1 heart, 2 diamonds and a spade.
- c) Given your estimate of South's hand, to make the contract you should play for North to have the singleton ♥K and the ♦A. When both exist you have a very good score.