

# Improvers' Bidding Challenge

## 17 – October 2019

Russell Frame

*We have input from a panel of 9 bridge teachers for our latest challenge. The questions for Challenge 18 appear elsewhere in this magazine and will also be posted on the SBU website – if you are a Bronze category player, please have a go and submit an entry. Let's see what our panel of teachers has to say:*

### Problem 1 Teams All Vul

	N	E	S	W
♠ Q	-	Pass	Pass	Pass
♥ AKQJ87	1♥	Pass	1N	Pass
♦ T5	?			
♣ KQ83				

*The majority of the panel decided to bid game:*

**Hamilton** (similarly **Benson, Gallacher, Pigott & Tudor**): 4♥: Doesn't need much so going for it at Teams - 3NT is likely to have problems in Spades as partner will be short as well.

*Peter, Liz and Derek judged that inviting game was sufficient:*

**Edmond** (similarly **McGowan & Sanders**): 3♥: 3C shows 9 of my cards but would be forcing so here I prefer to leave it up to partner.

*Steve decided to force and bid out his shape:*

**Male**: 3♣: Great hand - this is game forcing as I need very little from partner to make 5H or several tricks in Clubs.

Problem 1	Votes	Marks
4♥	5	10
3♥	3	9
3N	0	8
3♣	1	7
2♣	0	5
2♥	0	4
2♠	0	1

*At the table, partner held ♠KJ2, ♥T9, ♦942, ♣A9742 so, with only 3 losers, game was easily made.*

### Problem 2 Teams EW Vul

	N	E	S	W
♠ 43	?			
♥ AJT8543				
♦ A862				
♣ -				

*The panel was split between a 1-level opener and a strong pre-empt:*

**Pigott** (similarly **Benson, Male, McGowan, Sanders & Tudor**): 1♥: Because of my two aces, 3H is unthinkable but, although 4H is also pre-emptive, I want to hear more from partner before deciding on the final level especially as my hand has so much potential if a fit is found.

*Mike, Peter & Danny preferred to jump straight to game:*

**Gallacher** (similarly **Edmond & Hamilton**): 4♥: The dilemma is what level of Hearts to open - I could open 1 but, at favourable vulnerability and the dealer, I bid game immediately to make it difficult for the opposition to find the correct contract.

Problem 2	Votes	Marks
1♥	6	10
4♥	3	9
3♥	0	5
2♥	0	4
Pass	0	1

Partner's hand was ♠KT8752, ♥Q97, ♦3, ♣AT4 so 11 tricks were available with K♥ onside.

### Problem 3 Teams NS Vul

	N	E	S	W
♠ A98742	-	-	Pass	Pass
♥ AQ5	1♠	Pass	1N	Pass
♦ -	?			
♣ A852				

The panel was split on whether to invite or not - the majority introduced their second suit...

**McGowan** (similarly others): 2♣: Partner should give preference to Spades if he is 2-3 - if he has a singleton spade we may reach the best contract this way.

...but Joyce and Mike wanted to tell partner about their 6<sup>th</sup> Spade:

**Benson** (similarly **Gallacher**): 2♠: The choice here is between 2S & 2C but I reckon that the Club suit is so poor that this describes the hand better.

Problem 3	Votes	Marks
2♣	7	10
2♠	2	9
3♠	0	7
3♣	0	6
2♠	0	4
Pass	0	1

Partner held ♠QT, ♥K92, ♦J8753, ♣QT6 so, with a fortunate lie of the opponents' cards, careful play led to 10 or even 11 tricks!

### Problem 4 Teams EW Vul

	N	E	S	W
♠ AKT4	-	-	-	1♠
♥ 73	Pass	2♠	3♦	Pass
♦ K965	?			
♣ Q43				

The majority of the panel opted to risk the NT game with various degrees of confidence:

**Sanders** (similarly **Hamilton**, **McGowan** & **Pigott**): 3N: Partner has a spade shortage so likely to have stuff in the other suits!

**Tudor** (similarly **Edmond**): 3N: A little risky but this semi-gambling action often pays off - if opponents double, I might have a rethink!

Steve & Mike opted for a conservative line:

**Male** (similarly **Gallacher**): Pass: No need to bid for now - partner couldn't double but, if they bid 3S I'll go to 4D.

Joyce decided to leave it to partner to decide if there were 11 tricks in their minor:

**Benson**: 4♦: This time it is close between 4D & pass but this gives partner a chance to bid 5D or pass depending on the outside quality of their hand.

Problem 4	Votes	Marks
3N	6	10
Pass	2	8
4♦	1	7
5♦	0	5
3♠	0	6

Partner's holding was ♠-, ♥AQT, ♦QJT432,  
 ♣KT82 so 3N was a relatively comfortable  
 make although the Diamond game was a  
 step too far!

Congratulations to the following top scorers  
 in the various categories, particularly Bill,  
 Mike and Gary on their near perfect scores:

<b>5* Master</b>	Hamish Watson	Hamilton	35
<b>2* Master</b>	Bill Crighton	Banchory	39
	Mike Marshall	Carlton	39
	Bettina Debon	St Andrews	38
<b>1* Master</b>	Graham Dempsey	Carlton	36
	Les McConachie	St Andrews	35
<b>Master</b>	Gary Coombe	Ness	39
	Rosie Crockett	Longniddry	37
	Roy Heanes	New Melville	36
<b>District Master</b>	Marilyn McDonagh	Carlton	38
	David Olive	Caledonian	37
	Jim Wilson	St Joseph's	37
<b>Local Master</b>	Rosemary Jamieson	Carlton	37
	Ken Brown	Pentland	35
	Margaret Clark	New Melville	35
<b>Club Master</b>	Lesley Marron	Stornoway	38
	May Armour	Prestwick	37
	Patricia Gilmore	Pentland	37
	Bridget Sinclair	Ormiston	37
	Janet Hill	Milnathort	36