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**Hand 8**

♠ K 6 4 2  
♥ A Q 10 6  
♦ 2  
♣ A K 5 2

Again, you are vulnerable against not and the bidding starts:

West	North	East	South
		2♣ <sup>1</sup>	Dble
2♣ <sup>2</sup>	Dble	Pass	?

<sup>1</sup> Very strong (an Acol 2♣ opening) or weak with at least five diamonds

<sup>2</sup> Natural, non-forcing

Your double was take-out of the anchor suit, diamonds. You have shown the other three suits, so partner's double is for penalties. Pass.

The auction isn't over yet:

West	North	East	South
		2♣	Dble
2♣	Dble	Pass	Pass
5♦	5♣	Pass	?

Partner doubled 2♣ for penalties, LHO ran, and now partner has bid 5♣. It's become clear that LHO has psyched the

2♣ bid, and partner has a very good hand with spades. I think you have an easy raise to 6♣. With a diamond void as well, I would bid 6♦, showing my first-round control in that suit and inviting partner to bid 7♦ with a suitable hand.

**Common Sense Tip 10: When the partner of a pre-emptor bids a new suit, gets doubled and runs back to the pre-empt suit, the bid was usually a psyche. Don't let the opponents stop you finding your fit.**

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In these two articles I have tried to concentrate on how to reach a sensible contract without needing agreements specific to any particular toy the opponents come up with. I would like to finish with one more tip that encapsulates all the earlier ones:

**Don't be distracted by strange (or even psychic) actions by the opponents. Keep your head, listen to your partner's bidding, work out what he has shown and then bid the value of your own hand.** □

## KAY BATTING

I FIRST MET Kay in the mid-seventies at the old Whitehall Bridge Club in Eastbourne and it was not long before she took me under her wing. I was under the mistaken impression I could play the game; she taught me otherwise. She patiently brought order and discipline to my game and we played twice a week for thirty years. I am forever grateful for all that she did.

Kay believed that if a thing was to be done, it should be done properly. She was always well dressed and expected the same from others. I once turned up to play in jeans. I never did again!

She was the perfect hostess. When I arrived at her flat in Bexhill to play at the club, I was always greeted at the door with a glass of red wine and, after taking my shoes off (she always had white carpets) was allowed in. She was a good cook and we had many a splendid picnic in car parks around the county; linen napkins – never paper!

Kay learnt her bridge in Aden amongst the colonial and commercial wives; her other passion was tennis. During the war she was a Land Army Girl and when their service was recognised with a badge she wore it proudly. She retained her connection with the land as an accountant for farmers.

She served for many years on the Sussex CCBA committee and quietly served bridge in the county in other ways. This service was recognised by the EBU in presenting her with the Dimmie Fleming Award in 2007. She was a long-standing member of both the Bexhill and Eastbourne Bridge Clubs.

She is survived by her two sons and daughters-in-law of whom she was very proud. Her six grandchildren were a great light in her life. We all express our sadness to Kay's family at her passing.

(Peter Gates)

## CLUB PLAYER'S BIDDING QUIZ

ON each of the following problems, you are West. What should you bid with each hand on the given auction?

Julian Pottage gives his answers on page 44.

Hand 1	W	N	E	S
♠ J 3 ♥ 9 8 4 2 ♦ A K Q 4 3 ♣ 5 3			1♣	Pass
	1♦	Pass	1♥	Pass
	?			

Hand 2	W	N	E	S
♠ A Q 5 ♥ A K 6 ♦ K 10 4 2 ♣ 10 4 3			1♥	Pass
	1♦	Pass	1♥	Pass
	?			

Hand 3	W	N	E	S
♠ Void ♥ A K J 9 6 4 2 ♦ A 7 6 4 ♣ A 7			1NT	2♦
	?			Pass

Hand 4	W	N	E	S
♠ K 10 3 2 ♥ 9 7 4 ♦ K Q J ♣ 8 3 2			3♣	Dble
	Pass	3♣	Dble	Pass
	?			

Hand 5	W	N	E	S
♠ 10 7 6 2 ♥ Q 10 5 2 ♦ K Q J 8 4 ♣ Void				1NT
	?			Pass

Hand 6	W	N	E	S
♠ 4 ♥ Q J 10 6 ♦ K 8 5 2 ♣ A 10 5 2				1♣
	?			1NT



## Common Sense Defence Part II

A series to help tournament players when they come up against unusual conventions

THE PURPOSE of this short series is not to introduce more conventions to learn, but rather to show how common sense can solve many of the problems you may be faced with playing in a tournament.

Test yourself on the hands below. In each case, you are South, holding the hand shown, and you are playing a simple defence against unusual pre-empt:

1. If the opponents promise length (4+ cards) in the suit bid, double is take-out.
2. If the opponents promise length in some unknown suit(s), double is general values.
3. If the opponents promise length in another, known, suit, double is take-out of that suit.
4. If the opponents are playing a multi-style bid with strong options, assume they have a weak hand until proven otherwise.
5. No-trump bids are (nearly) always natural; jumps are strong.

Let's continue from where we stopped in the last issue:

**Hand 6**  
 ♠ 10 4  
 ♥ 4  
 ♦ Q | 10 8 6 4 2  
 ♣ 9 5 2

At Game All, the bidding starts:

West	North	East	South
2♣ <sup>1</sup>	Dble	2♥ <sup>2</sup>	Pass
2♣	2NT	Pass	?

<sup>1</sup> Four clubs and a five-card major

<sup>2</sup> To play in partner's major ('pass or correct')

Partner has shown a strong balanced hand,

too good to overcall 2NT on the first round. Bid 3♦, which should be natural and very weak. This auction is different from one where partner overcalls 2NT on the first round, because now you have passed over 2♥ implying a weak hand. It is more important to escape to a long weak suit than to use 3♦ as a transfer to hearts once you have denied a decent 9+ points. If you do want to force to game you can cue-bid 3♣ or just bid 3NT.

**Common Sense Tip 7: If you have already shown weakness, bids of a new suit are natural and weak even if partner now shows a strong balanced hand.**

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**Hand 7**  
 ♠ K | 10 4  
 ♥ K Q | 5  
 ♦ A Q 8 6 2  
 ♣ Void

Here you are vulnerable against not and the bidding starts:

West	North	East	South
2NT <sup>1</sup>	Dble	3♣ <sup>2</sup>	?

<sup>1</sup> A good pre-empt in one of the minors

<sup>2</sup> To play opposite clubs

2NT does not show a specific suit, so partner's double is general values. As 3♣ may be the opponents' suit and hence end the auction, double should be take-out of clubs (at least to start with). Your hand is too strong to bid, say, 3♦ which might just be competitive given that partner has shown strength. Also, you can't bid 4♣ because that would be natural – it's possible

from partner's hand that opener has long diamonds and we have long clubs (as in the case covered by Hand 3 in the last issue).

**Common Sense Tip 8: Double of a 'pass-or-correct' bid is take-out if partner has shown general values, not any specific hand type.**

West	North	East	South
2NT	Dble	3♣	Dble
Pass	4♣	Pass	?

Partner's 4♣ can't be natural; if he wanted to play in clubs, he could pass your double. Instead he is showing a hand now worth a game force, but not sure where to play. Partner doubled on the first round showing at least opening bid values, so your double of 3♣ could have been a suitable 8- or 9-count just looking to compete. Instead you have a huge 16-count; you can't just bid 4♦ or 4♥. I think the best call is 6♣. This clearly shows a slam drive, it must have first round club control, and implies we don't know what suit to bid. 5♠ is also feasible, but that doesn't show a hand worth bidding slam in the way 6♣ does.

Perhaps partner has something like:

♠ A Q 7 2  
 ♥ A 10 9 7 3  
 ♦ K  
 ♣ Q 7 3

and will have the courage to bid 7♥.

**Common Sense Tip 9: When you have a very good hand, don't underbid just because the auction has become confusing. Think what partner has shown, how much you have shown so far, and how much more than that you hold.**