

IMPROVE YOUR BIDDING

63. WHEN BART APPLIES

BY BEVERLY KRAFT

Matchpoints, neither side vulnerable, the bidding has gone:

| | | | |
|-------|------|-------|------|
| SOUTH | WEST | NORTH | EAST |
| 1 NT | — | 1 ♥ | Pass |
| ? | Pass | 2 ♣ | Pass |

In one of the few new agreements voted into Bridge World Standard 2001, after one spade — one notrump — two clubs — ?, the default treatment of responder's two-diamond rebid is Bart, an artificial treatment that temporarily suggests five hearts. (A system leaf is that two diamonds is natural.)

If opener bids two hearts (which indicates tolerance for the strain), responder may pass; should he bid again, his action is natural but shows a stronger hand than if the same bid had been made directly over two clubs. Most of responder's rebids over two clubs are normal: two spades shows two or three spades with at most seven points; two hearts announces a limited hand with at least six hearts; two notrump is natural, invitational, and denies a four-card club fit; three clubs is a "courtesy" raise with very good support—remember, opener may have only three clubs. Only three diamonds is nonstandard in the Bart context; it is, in effect, a weak

As South, what call do you make with each of the following?

- (a) ♠ 72 ♥ 87 ♦ 10864 ♣ 72
- (b) ♠ 72 ♥ 87 ♦ 10864 ♣ K72
- (c) ♠ 82 ♥ 87 ♦ 1086 ♣ KQ82
- (d) ♠ 82 ♥ 87 ♦ 1086 ♣ KQ82
- (e) ♠ 82 ♥ 87 ♦ 1087 ♣ KQ82
- (f) ♠ 87 ♥ 87 ♦ 109654 ♣ K87

(Answers on page 73.)

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example, if South leads a trump and West ducks, declarer, upon discovering the bad break, could cash the club ace and throw West in with a spade.)

In view of the visible black cards, it seemed to West more probable that South's unknown black card was a club rather than a spade, in which case none of the "standard" defenses could prevent declarer from taking seven tricks. By discarding the spade ace, West could still hold declarer to seven tricks while misleading him about the distribution. South led a high trump, which West ducked. Discovering the heart split, declarer realized that ordinary play would hold him to six tricks unless the club king was singleton. But West apparently was counted for six hearts, one diamond and four spades, thus two clubs. Accordingly, South led three more high trumps, which West ducked, leaving: [See next column.]

South should now have led the club

the queen-jack of spades. fact East took the last two tricks with to concede the last two tricks. But in hearts and then be forced to lead a club declarer led the heart nine, confidently Never dreaming there was any danger, the falsecard had mesmerized him. But the king of clubs on the next trick. But ace, intending to throw West in with

NORTH
♥ K 10
♦ —
♣ Q J

EAST
♥ Q J
♦ —
♣ 10 9

SOUTH
♥ —
♦ 9 6
♣ A 8

WEST
♥ 8
♦ A 7
♣ K

IMPROVE YOUR BIDDING SOLUTIONS

(Problems on page 70.)

Matchpoints, neither side vulnerable, the bidding has gone:

SOUTH WEST EAST
NT — 1♥ NORTH
Pass — 2♣ SOUTH
Pass — Pass EAST

♥ J 6 ♠ J 10 8 6 4 ♦ K 8 7 ♣ K 7 2

(b) *Two diamonds*. If opener bids two hearts, you should pass, even though two spades might prove the better partial when opener has only two hearts—opener might have three hearts in a minimum hand (with extra values and three hearts he would have bid more than two hearts). As the partnership won't have more than seven

(a) *Two diamonds*. This is a minimum for taking the circuitous route to two spades, indicating 8-10 points and two-card support. With a slightly weaker similar hand, you would bid

♥ J 6 ♠ K 8 7 ♦ J 10 8 6 4 ♣ K 7 2

spades and might have eight hearts, this decision is clear.

♥ J 6 ♠ J 10 8 6 ♦ 10 8 7 ♣ K Q 8 2

(c) *Two spades.* This is the path to follow to show a minimum hand (about five to seven support points) with two or three spades. Clubs might play better, but the holding is slightly too strong to pass—when you have such strong clubs, game is possible if opener has a maximum—and not sufficiently clubs-oriented for a “courtesy” raise to three clubs. With a fifth club, or with only one spade, bidding three clubs would be sensible, as opener will not have both only three clubs and a poor hand (because, as one notrump is only semi-forcing, the two-club rebid has some integrity, more than it would if one notrump were absolutely forcing).

♥ A 6 ♠ J 10 8 6 ♦ 10 8 7 ♣ K Q 8 2

(d) *Two diamonds.* Then two spades landing in a three-three club fit. avoiding the occasional ignominy of strength to risk reaching the three level, the diamond suit has enough internal on a given deal to pass two clubs, but this sequence. It might work out better weak; the hand is nearly maximum for (f) *Three diamonds.* Natural and

♥ 3 ♠ Q 9 4 ♦ Q 10 9 6 5 4 ♣ K 8 7

(e) *Two diamonds.* Your plan is next to bid three clubs, to show a strong hand and a fine club fit.

♥ 3 ♠ A J 10 8 ♦ 10 8 7 ♣ K Q 8 7 2

direct three clubs. after two hearts, a stronger raise than a would prefer a three-club continuation ing a similar hand and a fifth club, you hearts, natural but with a club fit. Hold-continue with two notrump over two were in diamonds, you would plan to card support. If your pointed-suit ace to show this maximum hand with two-

IMPROVE YOUR DEFENSE SOLUTION

(Problem on page 68.)

possibilities by shifting to a low diamond at trick two.

If East has the king of diamonds, the defense can shift to trumps and cash

any remaining diamond winners later on. If East has the ten of diamonds (see diagram), the diamond shift may kill

the entry to the king of clubs, and a later lead of a spade may prevent a

diamond ruff while denying dummy entry. Once you discover that declarer

has the king of diamonds, it will be advisable to take the first club lead,

because South, who is likely to have eight spade tricks at this vulnerability, will need only one club trick.

Your main chance for successful defense is to find East with a diamond honor. You can take advantage of most

| | | | | |
|-------|--------------------|------------------|--------------|---------------|
| WEST | ♥ 5 4 3 | ♠ A K Q 2 | ♦ A J 4 | ♣ A 6 5 |
| NORTH | ♥ 7 | ♠ J 10 8 7 6 5 4 | ♦ Q 5 | ♣ K Q 10 |
| EAST | ♥ 9 | ♠ 9 | ♦ 10 8 7 6 3 | ♣ J 9 8 7 4 3 |
| SOUTH | ♥ A K Q J 10 8 6 2 | ♠ 3 | ♦ K 9 2 | ♣ 2 |