

risk of losing a spade fit. If Oppenheimer were to take another call over 3♦, Bryant would happily show the spade suit.

Bridge Bulletin auction: (3♣)–Dbl–(Pass)–4♠; All Pass

Scores: 3♠ 11; 4♦ 9; 4♠ 6; 5♦ 5; (3♣ North) 2; (3♣ doubled, North) 1

Jabbour–Eisenstein 42, Bryant–Oppenheimer 33

Problem 6

East deals. Both vulnerable.

<i>West</i>	<i>East</i>
♠ Q 3	♠ K 8 6 5 4
♥ 10 4	♥ Q 3 2
♦ A J 6 2	♦ Q 7
♣ K 7 5 4 2	♣ A Q 3

<i>Jabbour</i>	<i>Eisenstein</i>
1NT	1♠
	Pass

This construction shows why so many 2/1 enthusiasts define a 1NT response as “semi-forcing.” With a 5–3–3–2 pattern and minimum values, passing 1NT rates to be the winner over the long haul, especially at matchpoints. Although Jabbour and Eisenstein play 1NT forcing, Eisenstein’s judgment told him pass was probably better than 2♣. On this layout, he was right. (Note: a forcing 1NT response is played by most pairs as showing fewer than game-forcing values, so the chance of missing a game is small.)

<i>Bryant</i>	<i>Oppenheimer</i>
1NT	1♠
2♠	2♣
	Pass

This is what the traditional 1NT-forcing auction looks like. Oppenheimer bid his next-longest suit (clubs) after the 1NT response, and Bryant took a preference to his partner’s major, despite holding long clubs. The crazy game called matchpoints demands that you play in the higher-scoring strain, even with a longer fit in a minor suit available.

Bridge Bulletin auction: 1♠–1NT; Pass

Scores: 1NT 10; 2♠ 9; 2♣ 8; 2NT 7; 3♣ 6; 3♠ 5

Jabbour–Eisenstein 52, Bryant–Oppenheimer 42

Problem 7

South deals. Both vulnerable. North opens 1♦, Precision (11–15 HCP, two or more diamonds). South bids 1♠ if possible.

<i>West</i>	<i>East</i>
♠ J 6 5 2	♠ 9
♥ 8 5 4	♥ A K Q 10
♦ K 9 6 5	♦ A Q 10 8 3
♣ A 6	♣ 7 5 2

<i>Jabbour</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>Eisenstein</i>	<i>South</i>
<i>Bryant</i>		<i>Oppenheimer</i>	
Pass	(1♦)	1♥	(Pass)
2♥	(Pass)	Pass	(Pass)

The fact that 1♦ is Precision is somewhat of a red herring: if 1♦ was natural, this would still be a difficult problem.

With a great four-card suit and opening values, both Easts overcalled 1♥. The West players raised to 2♥ after the South’s 1♠ response. Eisenstein and Oppenheimer couldn’t introduce diamonds naturally at this point. Any diamond bid would be a game-try, showing a good hand (3♦), or showing an even better hand with diamond shortness (4♦).

Bridge Bulletin auction: (Pass)–Pass–(1♦)–1♥; (1♠)–2♥–(Pass)–Pass

Scores: 5♦ 11; 4♥ 9; 4♦ 7; 3♥ 6; 2NT 5; 3NT 3

Jabbour–Eisenstein 58, Bryant–Oppenheimer 48

Problem 8

West deals. E–W vulnerable.

<i>West</i>	<i>East</i>
♠ J 3	♠ A 9
♥ Q 8 6 5 4	♥ A K J 3
♦ K 7	♦ A 10 9
♣ A K J 9	♣ Q 10 8 7

<i>Jabbour</i>	<i>Eisenstein</i>
1♥	2NT
3NT	6NT
Pass	

2NT was a conventional game-forcing heart raise (Jacoby 2NT). Jabbour’s 3NT response showed a non-minimum, without shortness or a sixth heart. Eisenstein considered using Blackwood at this point in the auction, but eventually decided to just make a practical stab at the likely top spot.

<i>Bryant</i>	<i>Oppenheimer</i>
1♥	2NT
4♥	6♥
Pass	

Another short and sweet auction: Bryant decided to treat his hand as a minimum, so he rebid 4♥ over the Jacoby 2NT response. Oppenheimer decided there was little to be gained by invoking Blackwood at this stage, so he jumped directly to slam.

Bridge Bulletin auction: 1♥–2NT (game-forcing raise); 4♥ (minimum)–4NT (RKC, 1430); 5♣ (one)–5♦ (♥Q?); 6♣ (yes and the ♣K)–6♥; Pass

Scores: 7♣ 12; 6NT 10; 6♥ 8; 6♣ 6; 5NT 3; 5♥ 2; 5♣ 1

Final score: Jabbour–Eisenstein 68, Bryant–Oppenheimer 56



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