

## CAUTIOUS BIDDER [131]

This latest offering is a little tardy as it has been composed in the face of adverse circumstances. First, the ground floor of our house has the appearance of a bomb site as it is under siege from builders. In consequence I have lost the use of my computer with its various helpful aids such as bridge symbols. Meanwhile we - and the cat - are living with Sue's mum, which neither I nor the cat find easy. Finally, my emails have been hacked and I find myself soliciting funds to support a poorly cousin in Ukraine. If you are the recipient of said email, do not send funds to some pathetic illiterate fraudster. Send them to *me* - this building work is expensive.

I was going to write at some length about last weekend's East Wales Bridge Congress. My team, which included three members with limited exposure to tournament play, experienced what is sometimes referred to in more exalted organs than this as 'a journey'. I'm sure we'll all be better for it. There were also some exceptionally entertaining hands, capable of generating substantial swings. Since I'm typing without heating I've chosen just two from the penultimate set on Sunday.

### Board 15. Dealer South; North/South vulnerable

What, if anything, do you open with the South hand?

♠32

♥AK

♦QJ8

♣AKJ1095

♠AKJ74

♠Q109865

♥942

♥5

♦532

♦K10976

♣73

♣4

♠ void

♥QJ108763

♦A4

♣Q862

I am still occasionally shocked to discover the extent to which some players have ideas about the game which depart so spectacularly from my own. For example, could you *Pass* the South hand? Alternatively, could you open it *Three Hearts*? Neither would occur to me, and fortunately in this instance my partner was of the same mind. We bid as follows:

S	N
1H	2C
3C	4C
4D	4H
4S	6C

Not a great sequence, and of course thirteen tricks are readily available in either hearts or clubs, but at least we bid the small slam, which is more than could be said for some North/South pairs, including our direct opponents. I didn't discover whether any North/South pair bid the Grand. Well done to anyone who managed it. It would be necessary, I think, for North to bid Roman Key Card and for the partnership to have the methods to enable South to show her one Ace plus the void. Not impossible.

There followed this very nasty opening lead problem.

The bidding at our table was as follows:

N	E	S	W
1H	2S	3D	P
3H	P	3S	P
6H			

As East you hold:

♠KJ9832

♥92

♦84

♣Q83

Your lead.....

**Board 17. Dealer North; all non-vulnerable**

	♠Q1076	
	♥AKQ643	
	♦J	
	♣94	
♠54		♠KJ9832
♥105		♥92
♦932		♦84
♣AK7652		♣Q83
	♠A	
	♥J87	
	♦AKQ10765	
	♣J10	

This hand generated huge swings at a great many tables, including our own. Great credit to those Easts who found the club lead. I think perhaps you should, but plenty didn't.

GD