



**Volume 6 No. XI November 2005**

**What's Partner Got?**

One of the no-no's in bridge is to assign particular cards to partner before finding out if he has them. For instance, if partner opened 1♠ and you presumed that he had the ♠AQ, you would be making an incorrect assumption. Partner's opening was based on his overall hand and the actual cards that make up his spade holding could be quite varied. On the other hand, if you assumed that partner had five or more spades for his 1♠ opening you would be correct because that is your agreement concerning opening 1♥ and 1♠ bids. One technique for learning how to bid correctly is to try to determine partner's hand (meaning his overall strength and distribution) and realizing how your hand fits into that assessment. We would like to point out that as the bidding continues on any given hand, each partner is showing more and more about his hand. Hopefully, that will make it easier for partner. This issue is devoted to determining your bid. Each time you are asked to determine your bid, it is essential that you have some idea what your partner's hand looks like for the bidding he has done so far. In each example you will see your hand and the auction. There will be three choices from which to determine what your partner's hand might look like. Sometimes more than one choice seems possible while other times only one choice seem appropriate. Your job is to determine which of partner's "three hands" is possible and then to choose your bid. A discussion follows each hand. Try #1.

Possible North Hands For Auction 1  
Your Answer in the Box Below.

1) ♠ KQ765 ♥ Q762 ♦ AQ ♣ 86  
 2) ♠ AT653 ♥ AQJ94 ♦ 32 ♣ 4  
 3) ♠ AKQT3 ♥ KQJ2 ♦ AT ♣ J8

South 1  
 ♠ J2  
 ♥ T83  
 ♦ K76  
 ♣ A9753

Auction 1			
W	N	E	S
	1♠	P	1N
P	2♥	P	?

Answer Box	
1.	Yes or No
2.	Yes or No
3.	Yes or No

From South's point of view North could easily have hand #1 or hand #2, but not hand #3. Why can't North have hand 3? Easy. If he had such a good hand he would jump shift at his second turn.

Obviously there is no way for South to determine whether North has four hearts or five hearts. Since that is the case, it behooves South to return to 2♠. In a situation like this South is said to be taking a preference...he is preferring spades to hearts since the 5-2 fit (spades) usually plays better than the 4-3 fit (hearts). Yes, sometimes they miss their 8-card heart fit. Such is life! Let's try a tougher one.

**#2**

Possible North Hands For Auction 2  
Your Answer in the Box Below.

1) ♠ KT765 ♥ KQ76 ♦ 8 ♣ KQ6  
 2) ♠ KT653 ♥ AKQ4 ♦ 8 ♣ Q32  
 3) ♠ KJT87 ♥ KQ92 ♦ AT ♣ KQ

South 2  
 ♠ AQ2  
 ♥ JT  
 ♦ 932  
 ♣ AJT98

Auction 1			
W	N	E	S
	1♠	P	2♣
P	2♥	P	?

Answer Box	
1.	Yes or No
2.	Yes or No
3.	Yes or No

It doesn't matter what system North-South are playing when it comes to North's bidding. North must bid his hearts at his second turn and this bid is forcing even if South has only 10 points, which is possible playing Standard. Notice that all three of the hands shown are possible hands for North and are consistent with North's bidding.

So, now we come to South's second bid. Playing 2/1 Game Forcing, South has already shown his opening bid strength when he bid 2♣. The only question is whether he should bid 2♠ or perhaps 3♠ or even 4♠ at his second turn. The answer is 2♠. This is not a preference as it was in hand #1. When you play 2/1 and you make one, going back to opener's major at your next turn shows a "prepared hand". That means you REALLY have 3+ card trump support. No need to jump since you've already forced to game. Those South's who play Standard must jump at their second turn to show more than 10 points. This jump is what makes it hard to get to slam on some hands.

#3

Possible North Hands For Auction 3  
Your Answer in the Box Below.

1) ♠ AQT76 ♥ 42 ♦ K82 ♣ AT5  
2) ♠ QJ9865 ♥ AJ4 ♦ J2 ♣ AQ  
3) ♠ AQJT2 ♥ KJ2 ♦ 32 ♣ Q42

South 3  
♠ K3  
♥ Q65  
♦ AQ4  
♣ KJ986

Auction 1			
W	N	E	S
	1♠	P	2♣
P	3♣	P	?

Answer Box	
1.	Yes or No
2.	Yes or No
3.	Yes or No

For each of the North hands, North has either a 2♠ or 3♣ rebid. North #1 and #3 should bid 3♣, while North #2 rebids 2♠. South has it easy after North #2's 2♠ and simply says 2N. North would say 3♣ on his ♣AQ tight and South tries 3♦. North chooses between 3N or 3♥. If North says 3N, it's over. If North bids 3♥, South says 3♠ and North decides where (not if) he goes.

North's #1 and #3 make it easy for South. Once North raises to 3♣, South must be careful. It looks like a 3N hand but South has a weak heart holding. Over North's immediate raise to 3♣, South should show his strength with a 3♦ bid. North #3 bids 3N. North #1, without a heart stopper, bids 3♠. Each bid makes it easy for South. Over North #1's 3♠, South bids 4♠. Over North #3's 3N, South passes. The key is to avoid 3N when it is a bad contract. Bidding your strength helps the partnership get to the right contract.

**Bid-Em-Ups:** Bid these with your partner. North is the dealer. Our auctions are on page 7. South's hands are on page 4.

North 1	North 2	North 3
♠ KT62	♠ K97	♠ K432
♥ A7	♥ A9432	♥ AQ85
♦ K984	♦ AK5	♦ Q93
♣ KJ9	♣ 54	♣ AJ
North 4	North 5	North 6
♠ A93	♠ 65	♠ 6
♥ Q3	♥ A	♥ A4
♦ QJ87542	♦ AKJ72	♦ AKQ854
♣ A	♣ AK642	♣ 8764

#4

Possible North Hands For Auction 4  
Your Answer in the Box Below.

1) ♠ KQT2 ♥ KQT ♦ KQ632 ♣ 3  
2) ♠ AT6 ♥ KJ4 ♦ KQT432 ♣ 2  
3) ♠ QT3 ♥ AT2 ♦ KQT32 ♣ K2

South 1  
♠ 5  
♥ 6  
♦ AJ9875  
♣ QT654

Auction 1			
W	N	E	S
1♣	1♦	1♠	?

Answer Box	
1.	Yes or No
2.	Yes or No
3.	Yes or No

The first order of business is to examine the North hands and determine if they should overcall 1♦ as shown in the auction box. Although it is certainly clear that a 1♦ overcall is not a terrible bid with any of the hands, we must admit we would make a takeout double of 1♣ if we had the North #1 hand. In fact, it seems as though a takeout double is classic.

Hands #2 and #3 are different. First consider hand #2 with the 6-card diamond suit and no four card major. Most players would overcall 1♦ hoping their partner might be enticed into the auction (by the fact that they had bid) to mention his five or six card major (if he had one). When it comes to hand #3, there is nothing wrong with a takeout double but we prefer the 1♦ overcall since we don't have a four card major. As in hand #2, perhaps partner will subsequently mention his long major, if he happens to have one.

At first South didn't know how high to bid. Since he has such a fantastic fit it is not unreasonable to picture such a fit in the opponents' hands. However, the opening bid was 1♣ which seems to indicate that clubs is the opener's longest suit. What South is worried about is that whichever type of hand North might have (either #1, #2 or #3) it is conceivable that North-South can beat 4♥ or 4♠. **This is very bad thinking. When you have so many trump as well as such massive distribution, your thoughts should run towards what your side might make. Bid 5♦. It's a 2-way bid. Perhaps you will make it or perhaps the opponents will go wrong. BID ALL YOU DARE AND LET THE OPPOSITION MAKE THE FINAL DECISION.**

#5

Possible North Hands For Auction 5  
Your Answer in the Box Below.

1) ♠ KQ765 ♥ 2 ♦ 832 ♣ AJT8  
 2) ♠ KT653 ♥ A6 ♦ K2 ♣ JT42  
 3) ♠ QJT53 ♥ KQJ ♦ T ♣ AJ82

South 1  
 ♠ A2  
 ♥ 983  
 ♦ AQJ65  
 ♣ KQ3

Auction 1			
W	N	E	S
			1N
P	2♥*	P	2♠
P	3♣	P	?
* transfer			

Answer Box	
1.	Yes or No
2.	Yes or No
3.	Yes or No

#6

Possible North Hands For Auction 6  
Your Answer in the Box Below.

1) ♠ KQ652 ♥ Q632 ♦ 76 ♣ AQ  
 2) ♠ AT653 ♥ AQJ92 ♦ 2 ♣ 82  
 3) ♠ KQT32 ♥ AQJ2 ♦ KT ♣ 98

South 1  
 ♠ J7  
 ♥ KT74  
 ♦ A843  
 ♣ 543

Auction 1			
W	N	E	S
	1♠	P	1N
P	2♥	P	?

Answer Box	
1.	Yes or No
2.	Yes or No
3.	Yes or No

It is very interesting to note that the three hands shown as possible hands for North actually have a theme...and an anti-theme. You will note that none of the three hands have very much slam possibility. In fact, hand #2 should not be bid as shown in the bidding box. North should simply jump to 3N after he transfers to spades. That jump offers South the choice between 3N and 4♠. There is no reason for North to mention his moth-eaten club suit. After all, North is not too concerned about the red suits since he has a major honor in each.,

Hand #1 and hand #3 are a different story. First, North's clubs are significantly better than in hand #2. Second, having better clubs seems to result in a weakness in one of the red suits. The weakness is obvious when you can see North's hand. South can't possibly know North's weak red suit. However, since North has shown nine cards (at a minimum) in two suits, you do not have to be a rocket scientist to realize that North only has four other (non-spade and non-club) cards. Obviously, there could be a serious weakness in one of those suits.

What can South do? He doesn't have three spades but his hearts are much too weak to bid 3N in light of the previous discussion. South has little choice: he must bid his strength - 3♦. In hand #1, North would be forced to bid 3♠ after South's 3♦. Certainly North can't bid 3N with a stiff heart once South refused to bid it! South raises to 4♠. In hand #3, once North hears South's strength showing 3♦, North bids 3N with his double heart stopper. As long as each player bids his own hand, they can avoid 3N when it is to be avoided. The key: South's 3♦ bid showing diamond strength and likely heart weakness.

The three North hands show different lengths and strengths but all three have one thing in common: it is obvious that each of them would be bid the way it shows North bidding in the auction box. Hand #1 is simply a complete minimum. In point of fact, all players would open but it is not a very good hand. Hand #2 has only 11 high card points but if you don't open, you don't really understand the game. It's not the points but the great distribution with the points located in the long suits. Finally, hand #3 is an easy opening and even has a bit of extra value despite the fact that there is no singleton. Now that we agree that all three North hands would bid as shown, let's see what South should be doing.

Before we analyze the various hands, let us say that it is inconceivable for South to pass 2♥. Whenever you have four trumps to a major honor along with a side ace, it is imperative that you give your partner a "courtesy raise". A courtesy raise differs from an invitational raise (like 1♥ - 3♥) in that an invitational 3♥ bid shows strength (10 - 12) but a courtesy raise (showing much less strength) is just being made "in case" opener has a better than average hand.

For those of you who would pass 2♥ with the South hand we would like to point out that 4♥ is ice cold with hand #2 and hand #3. In fact, North might make 4♥ on hand #1 but he will pass 3♥ since he has such a minimum. It is generally a good idea to raise your partner when you have trump. In this particular auction, South should never bid 3♥ unless he has MORE than three trumps. There is no reason to raise partner's second suit with only three trump.

#7

Possible North Hands For Auction 7  
Your Answer in the Box Below.

1) ♠ KQ765 ♥ 62 ♦ AQ2 ♣ K86

2) ♠ AT652 ♥ A4 ♦ 2 ♣ KJ982

3) ♠ AT862 ♥ Q2 ♦ KT ♣ KJ32

South 1  
♠ 3  
♥ JT53  
♦ 876  
♣ AQT54

Auction 1			
W	N	E	S
	1♠	P	1N
P	2♣	P	?

Answer Box	
1.	Yes or No
2.	Yes or No
3.	Yes or No

Only playing 2/1 would North's second bid be 2♣. In Standard, North would pass South's 1N response. Certainly North would rebid 2♣ in hand #2 as well as hand #3. The question becomes, "What, if anything, should South bid?"

Just like problem #6 on the preceding page South has an obligation to make a "courtesy raise" in clubs whenever he has such a good club fit. Again, this 3♣ bid is not invitational. It is what we would describe as a "just-in-case" bid. When South raises 2♣ to 3♣ he is saying to North, "Just-in-case you have a strong distributional hand, you will find my hand to your liking." What that invariably means is five or more good trump and a singleton in North's major. North has no problem. He can keep bidding with hand #2 and pass with hands like #3. Even playing 2/1 there is no problem. North, with hand #1, would simply pass when South makes his 3♣ "courtesy raise."

**Bid-Em-Ups:** Bid these with your partner. North is the dealer. Our auctions are on page 7. North's hands are on page 2.

South 1	South 2	South 3
♠	♠ AQJ3	♠ 86
♥ K52	♥ T87	♥ KT74
♦ AJT5	♦ 8764	♦ AKJ852
♣ AQT874	♣ AQ	♣ 5
South 4	South 5	South 6
♠ KQJ4	♠ A432	♠ AJ43
♥ AKJ82	♥ 62	♥ 5
♦ A	♦ Q985	♦ T976
♣ 853	♣ QJ3	♣ AKJT

#8

Possible North Hands For Auction 8  
Your Answer in the Box Below.

1) ♠ KT8762 ♥ 3 ♦ A2 ♣ 8654

2) ♠ AK8632 ♥ J84 ♦ 32 ♣ 42

3) ♠ AKT872 ♥ 3 ♦ 32 ♣ KJT8

South 1  
♠ QJ954  
♥ AT932  
♦ 876  
♣

Auction 1			
W	N	E	S
	2S	P	?

Answer Box	
1.	Yes or No
2.	Yes or No
3.	Yes or No

As usual, let us first determine whether each of the North hands shown above would open with a weak two-bid. When it comes to hand #1, we doubt that most would open 2♠ if they were vulnerable...we certainly would not. However, not vulnerable we think that the excellent distribution makes up for the bad suit. Hand #2, although completely balanced, is a much more typical hand for a weak two-bid and we would guess that most players would open 2♠ at any vulnerability. Hand #3 is easy. We don't think that anyone would open 2♠. It seems to us that everyone would open 1♠.

Now let's consider South's hand. It is hard to imagine anyone who would not jump to 4♠ as the partner of a 2♠ opening bidder. Some people would be thinking that they don't have many points. They would be worried about going down one in 4♠. Such thinking is ludicrous. When your side has a monstrous fit, do not worry about going down a trick or two. Just jump to game and let the opponents worry. In fact the objective is to let the opponents make the final decision on all hands of this ilk. We refer you to page 2, #4 for a similar analysis.

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**To Squeal or Not to Squeal**

Many times throughout your bridge playing pursuits you have been faced with the problem of whether or not to “squeal”. This problem will not go away. You will be face to face with it in the future as well. By “squealing” we mean giving away the hidden features of a given hand. First a simple example: your partner opens 1NT and you have a 4-card major but you think that 3N will make as many tricks as four of the major (if you have a 4-4 fit). So instead of bidding Stayman, you jump to 3N. No one knows that you have a 4-card major. You have not “squealed”.

The problem with not showing your hand is that you have not given your partner the information that he might be able to use to make the perfect (or even an adequate) decision. Often this is a calculated risk such as in the example in the previous paragraph.

Real problems occur when the auction is competitive and one member of the partnership decides not to “squeal”. Here is an example. North held the following hand and heard the auction proceed as shown:

North ♠ AQ976 ♥ ♦ AKT86 ♣ Q32	Auction 1 W      N      E      S 1♠    2♥    2♠ 3♥    4♠    5♥    P P      5♠    6♥    P P      X      All pass	South ♠ KJT3 ♥ T64 ♦ J97543 ♣
---	--	---

We do not like to be wise guys but would it surprise you to find out that the opponent’s made 6♥x? But that, to coin a phrase, was the good news. The bad news was that North-South were cold for 7♠!!!! Take a look at the entire layout at the bottom of the adjacent column.

Now we must determine exactly what went wrong, not to establish blame but to make sure that we do not fall into the same trap in the future. It should be clear to anyone reading this article that North acted in a totally unilateral fashion throughout the auction. He kept bidding until he decided that the opponent’s had bid too much and that he could not make any further contracts. He made these decisions all by himself, without getting any help from South. He assumed that once South had supported him by bidding 2♠ that there was nothing else that South could contribute. Also, we are certain that in the back of his mind North did not want the opposition to know about his second suit. He was trying to trick them.

Of course, the truth is that East was doing the same thing. This time East won the “I’ll trick you” battle. Do you see how North might have gotten a better result? Yes, you do. North should have mentioned his second suit instead of jumping to game at his second turn. He must bid 4♦ instead of 4♠.

You might now be asking, “How would that help”? Good question. The answer lies with South. Look at South’s hand. If South had heard North bid 4♦ at his second turn, South would know the entire hand. He would be aware of the massive double fit that he had with North. He would also be able to infer that East-West had just as massive a fit in the other suits. Does that mean that South could envision that his side could make 7♠? Absolutely not! Even if South is astute enough to realize that North is very short in hearts, he could not possibly know how many tricks his side could take. Now you are thinking, “So, how would it help”? Same question as above but with an answer. Even though South has no idea how many tricks his side can make, he has a good idea as to how many tricks the **opponents can take**. How many? As many as they want! Since South will be able to determine the strength of the two sided double fit, he will make sure that his side keeps bidding. In other words, he will not allow the opponent’s to play the hand. Notice that on this hand that would be an unmitigated success since North-South can make a grand slam. Not all hands work out so well, but you will be using good judgment not to allow the opposition to play the hand when you are certain that each side has a double fit. This bit of advice is mandatory at IMP scoring (Swiss Teams). But even in match-points, you should make a very strong attempt to have your side play the hand when it is a double fit freak such as this hand. But, someone must bid the second suit. Usually it is the opener or overcaller who must do this to let the other member of the partnership in on it..

West ♠ 854 ♥ KQ72 ♦ Q2 ♣ T876	North ♠ AQ976 ♥ ♦ AKT86 ♣ Q32 N W      E S South ♠ KJT3 ♥ T64 ♦ J97543 ♣	East ♠ 2 ♥ AJ9853 ♦ ♣ AKJ954
---	--	--

Experts have a secret to which anyone can become privy. **They count.** They count suit length, distribution, and HCP. It's not easy. Keep at it...it's worth it.

North ♠ Q74 ♥ KJT7 ♦ Q4 ♣ 8765	<b>Auction</b> W      N      E      S P      P      P      1♠ P      2♠      All pass Opening lead: ♣T	South ♠ AK832 ♥ 42 ♦ KJT2 ♣ Q2
--	--	--

Most bridge writers try to present game or slam hands for the simple reason that these kinds of hands seem to stir up the most interest. However, very often it is the simple looking commonplace hand that can teach us how to think. In fact, since thinking is what makes bridge fun, we must learn not to be seduced by seemingly uncomplicated hands. This month's hand is one, which at first might appear to be simple. In fact it starts out looking as if you have to guess how to play a certain suit. But, correct thinking makes it easy. Let us examine the hand.

North ♠ Q74 ♥ KJT7 ♦ Q4 ♣ 8765	As usual you are South. Your hand and the auction appear at the top of this column. As you can see, it appears to be a rather common hand, one that you have held many times. The auction is quiet. Down comes North's dummy after West leads the ♣T. Take a look to the left so that you may peruse the dummy along with your hand.
South ♠ AK832 ♥ 42 ♦ KJT2 ♣ Q2	At first glance it appears as if you have two club losers, one diamond loser, no spade losers if they break 3-2 and one or two heart losers. The heart losers depend on whether or not you guess the heart position (this assumes that the AQ are not offside and that the suit is guessable). It looks as if you will make the hand even if you misguess the hearts as long as the spades break.

As usual, something goes wrong. East wins the first trick with the ♣K and continues with the ♣A at trick two, West showing out. When East continues with a high club you realize that you must now lose a spade trick. If you ruff high you will lose a trick to the ten or jack even if the suit breaks 3-2. If you ruff low, West will certainly overruff. Now you will be compelled to guess the heart in order to make the hand. You ruff low and West overruffs and leads the ♦A and a second diamond, which you win. It takes you three rounds to draw trump since it turns out that East had but one spade.

As usual, something goes wrong. East wins the first trick with the ♣K and continues with the ♣A at trick two, West showing out. When East continues with a high club you realize that you must now lose a spade trick. If you ruff high you will lose a trick to the ten or jack even if the suit breaks 3-2. If you ruff low, West will certainly overruff. Now you will be compelled to guess the heart in order to make the hand. You ruff low and West overruffs and leads the ♦A and a second diamond, which you win. It takes you three rounds to draw trump since it turns out that East had but one spade.

West ♠ (JT96) ♥ ??? ♦ (A97)?? ♣ (T)	North ♠ (Q74) ♥ <b>KJT</b> (7) ♦ (Q4) ♣ <b>87</b> (65)	East ♠ (5) ♥ ?? ♦ (86)?? ♣ (AKJ94)3
N      E W      S		
South ♠ (AK83)2 ♥ <b>42</b> ♦ <b>KJ</b> (T2) ♣ (Q2)		

The position as shown in the diagram above has been reached. Cards in ( ) have been played. Cards in bold have not been played. You must now decide how you are going to play the heart suit. This seemingly "common" hand has turned out to be not so common.

We know that you figured it out. East can hardly have the ace of hearts. Since we know that he had a singleton spade as well as a six-card club suit headed by the AKJ, it would be impossible for him not to have opened the bidding. Even if he had decided not to open, he would have bid 3♣ the second time around. In fact, when this hand actually happened we were surprised that East had not bid with the hand he had. We certainly would have. How about you?

The key here was to count the high card points. Other times you must count the suit lengths. In order to do any of these things you must pay attention! Keep counting!

West ♠ JT96 ♥ <b>A53</b> ♦ A9753 ♣ T	North ♠ Q74 ♥ KJT7 ♦ Q4 ♣ 8765	East ♠ 5 ♥ Q986 ♦ 86 ♣ AKJ943
N      E W      S		
South ♠ AK832 ♥ 42 ♦ KJT2 ♣ Q2		

North 1  
 ♠ KT62  
 ♥ A7  
 ♦ K984  
 ♣ KJ9

		Auction 1			
W	N	E	S		
	1♦	P	2♣		
P	3♣	P	3♦		
P	3N	P	4♣		
P	4♥	P	6♣		

South 1  
 ♠  
 ♥ K52  
 ♦ AJT5  
 ♣ AQT874

North had an immediate problem after South's 2♣ response. Should North raise clubs or bid 2N? With two club honors and a side doubleton we like the raise to 3♣. South bid a natural 3♦ next. North tried 3N which tended to slow South down since South now knew that North had wasted spade strength (since North obviously had a stopper in each major). South's 4♣ bid should be taken as forward going since without an especially good hand, he would pass 3N. North cuebid his ace (heart) and South jumped to the slam. North should be content and not try to better the contract.

North 2  
 ♠ K97  
 ♥ A9432  
 ♦ AK5  
 ♣ 54

		Auction 2			
W	N	E	S		
	1♥	P	1♠		
P	2♠	P	4♥		
All pass					

South 2  
 ♠ AQJ3  
 ♥ T87  
 ♦ 8764  
 ♣ AQ

North was faced with the classic decision at his second bid: raise partner's major with only three trump or rebid 1N with a side suit doubleton without an honor. *Bridge Sense* has counseled for years that the "best lie" is to raise partner's major. South it turned out, also had a hard hand but life certainly got easy for him when North decided to raise to 2♠. There could hardly be a slam since North had a minimum so South felt within himself to jump to game in hearts.

North 3  
 ♠ K432  
 ♥ AQ85  
 ♦ Q93  
 ♣ AJ

		Auction 3			
W	N	E	S		
	1N	P	2♣		
P	2♥	P	4♣*		
P	4N	P	5♥		
P	6♥				

South 3  
 ♠ 86  
 ♥ KT74  
 ♦ AKJ852  
 ♣ 5

South's reaction to North's 1N opening was correct. His plan was to bid Stayman and then bid his diamonds if North didn't have four hearts. However, North fooled him and did indeed have four hearts. This North-South pair played that a jump shift (like South's 4♣) after the response to Stayman showed a splinter: heart support, a singleton club and a slam try. North loved that. He had only the ♣J wasted, The rest of his hand fit perfectly with a heart slam try short in clubs. North bid Keycard Blackwood and then the slam.

North 4  
 ♠ A93  
 ♥ Q3  
 ♦ QJ87542  
 ♣ A

		Auction 4			
W	N	E	S		
	1♦	P	1♥		
P	2♦	P	2♠		
P	3♣	P	3♦		
P	4N	etc			

South 4  
 ♠ KQJ4  
 ♥ AKJ82  
 ♦ A  
 ♣ 853

It started out easily enough for North who got to repeat his diamonds. His bid after South's 2♠ bid was another matter. He had a club stopper and could bid 2N but his distribution didn't seem to fit with a 2N bid. Instead he chose 3♣ (a 4th suit bid). South had a tough bid now. He showed his diamond ace and that was all North needed. He jumped to 4N, keycard Blackwood for diamonds and when South showed two Keycards, North bid the slam. It turns out to be a great slam since North has seven diamonds and only four diamonds to a king in an opponent's hand can beat it.

North 5  
 ♠ 65  
 ♥ A  
 ♦ AKJ72  
 ♣ AK642

		Auction 5			
W	N	E	S		
	1♦	P	1♠		
P	3♣	P	3♦		
P	3♥	P	4♣		
P	4N	etc			

South 5  
 ♠ A432  
 ♥ 62  
 ♦ Q985  
 ♣ QJ3

North made a classic jump shift at his second turn and when South returned to 3♦, North still did not know much about South's hand. North tried 3♥ (a similar technique to North's 3♣ bid in #4). Now he found out something. When South bid 4♣, North assumed that South had a somewhat forward going hand since with a bad hand South could have returned to 4♦ instead. North tried Blackwood and was rewarded with one Keycard to go along with both minor suit queens.

North 6  
 ♠ 6  
 ♥ A4  
 ♦ AKQ854  
 ♣ 8764

		Auction 6			
W	N	E	S		
	1♦	P	2♣		
P	2♦	P	2♠		
P	3♣	P	4♥*		
P	4N	etc			

South 6  
 ♠ AJ43  
 ♥ 5  
 ♦ T976  
 ♣ AKJT

Notice South's 2♣ bid rather than the more typical 1♠ response. The advent of 2/1 has taught most experts that with four spades, a four card minor and an opening bid it is best to respond 2 of the minor (game forcing) intending to bid spades next. That is exactly what happened here. Over 3♣, South's jump to 4♥ was a splinter showing a singleton heart. North bid Keycard Blackwood and chose 6♦ as the final contract. Please note how clumsy the auction might have been if South responded 1♠.

**Future Bernie Cruises**

**Oct. 27, 2005 for 11 days  
aboard Crystal Symphony  
Montreal - Ft. Lauderdale**

**Dec. 28, 2005 (New Year's) 10 Days  
aboard Star Princess  
Round trip Ft. Lauderdale (So. Caribbean)**

**May 6, 2006 for 12 Days  
aboard QM2  
Mediterranean**

**August 2006  
aboard Celebrity Constellation  
Baltic**

**New Years 2006-7  
aboard Celebrity Constellation  
Round trip Ft. Lauderdale**

**Future Bridge Universities**

**April 24-27, 2006 Atlantic City**

**July 31 - Aug 3, 2006 Las Vegas**

**Dec. 11-14, 2006 Las Vegas**

**June 4-7 Bridge Ranch  
for youngsters, parents and grandparents**

**Great News - Bigger and Better**

**This is the penultimate issue of *Bridge Sense* in it's current form. We will be expanding our staff (to give me a little break from my frenzied life) to include other nationally known experts. There will be a greater variety of topics in an expanded version, probably published quarterly. The new newsletter will have most of your current favorite columns plus some new ones. Look for more details in December's *Bridge Sense*.**

**Bernie Chazen**

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