

Tim Bourke's Problem

(Solution next page)

4. STRATEGY

Dealer South. E-W Vul.

NORTH

♠ J 10 6 2
♥ K 5 3 2
♦ 10 5 4
♣ A J

SOUTH

♠ -
♥ A J 10 8 7
♦ A K Q J 3
♣ K Q 2

West	North	East	South
			1♥
1♠	2♠	4♠	6♥
All pass			

What is your plan to make the contract after West leads the king of spades?



Even Homer Nods

This award is made annually at the New Zealand National Congress to the expert player who contrives the best loony masterpiece at the table. David Appleton won the "Homer" a couple of years ago for a wee masterstroke in the final of the NZ Teams.

David obviously has happy memories of this, as today he put in what surely would have been a winning performance if we were in NZ.

A little background first. A couple of years back, David and Arjuna Delivera were teammates in the Sao Paulo Bermuda Bowl. Apparently, Arjuna developed a theory of random doubles of 4NT bids – since it doesn't happen very often that 4NT gets doubled, the theory seems to be that a double might generate a memory coup against the opponent's methods. Today, David and partner Peter Reynolds were in play against Arjuna and Ian Robinson when this one landed:

Dir: S
Vul: E-W

19

♠ AKT8	♥ 8	♦ J965	♣ 9653
♠ Q7	♥ J542	♦ AKQ	♣ AQ74
♠ 92	♥ AKQT63	♦ T743	♣ K
♠ J6543	♥ 97	♦ 82	♣ JT82

After a pass from Peter (South), Arjuna opened 1♣. David overcalled his 4 card spade suit and Ian offered 2♥. Peter couldn't see too much defence in his hand so he went straight to 4♠. Arjuna decided he liked his hand and reached for 4NT.

Always prepared to learn from an expert, David tried one of Arjuna's random doubles.

Now without the double, Ian's response would have been 5♠ - 2 keycards and the ♥Q. With the double, the two extra steps available (pass and redouble) meant that his response became 5♦ and Arjuna was able to sign off in 5♥

And David said



And then Arjuna found himself on the receiving end of a defensive trump coup. In the end game he was never making his 4♠ contract but the final position was quite cute.

25	♠ K987	Dir: N
	♥ J9652	Vul: E-W
	♦ 642	
	♣ K	
♠ JT5432	♠ AQ	
♥ A	♥ 743	
♦ JT85	♦ A3	
♣ A4	♣ Q98753	
	♠ 6	
	♥ KQT8	
	♦ KQ97	
	♣ JT62	

David led the ♥2 to the Queen and Ace. Arjuna cashed the ♣A after some thought and then went back into the tank when David dropped the King. He emerged to play the ♦J to dummy's Ace and returned a diamond which Peter took with the King.

Peter exited a trump, taken on table with the Queen. Arjuna ruffed a heart in the closed hand, ruffed a diamond with the Ace and ruffed a further heart. He then led the ♠10 which David took with the King to play another trump back to Arjuna's Jack and this position

	♠ 8	
	♥ J9	
	♦	
	♣	
♠ 5		♠
♥		♥
♦ 10		♦
♣ 4		♣ Q98
	♠	
	♥	
	♦ Q	
	♣ J10	

Arjuna crossed to the ♣Q but his little trump was trapped for one off.

Tim Bourke's Problem - Solution

There will be few problems if the trumps are no worse than 3-1. You can play the ace and king of trumps and go about your business. So, the only case to consider is what happens if the trumps are 4-0.

When this was originally played, declarer ruffed the spade lead with the three and led a low trump to dummy's king. East showed out and it was only then that the declarer paused to make a plan.

	♠ J 10 6 2	
	♥ K 5 3 2	
	♦ 10 5 4	
	♣ A J	
♠ K Q 9 8 3		♠ A 7 5 4
♥ Q 9 6 4		♥ -
♦ 8		♦ 9 7 6 2
♣ 9 7 4		♣ 10 8 6 5 3
	♠ -	
	♥ A J 10 8 7	
	♦ A K Q J 3	
	♣ K Q 2	

Alas, the slam could no longer be made. When West won a trick with the trump queen, he played a second spade. This forced South to ruff with an honour and West scored a second trump trick.

To make the slam you must play the ace rather than the eight of trumps at trick two. When East shows out, you continue with the jack of trumps. It will not matter whether West decides to cover, you will take three rounds of trumps and then play your minor suit winners. West can take his trump trick whenever he likes.



You should note that playing the ace of trumps wins when East holds all of trumps too. You will run the jack of trumps to East's queen, ruff the spade return and draw the trumps, using the ace of clubs as an entry to draw East's last trump with the king of trumps.

Cashing the ace of trumps at trick two is correct play but not because West happens to hold the trump length; it is right because you cannot afford to ruff a second spade with a trump honour.

Note that the alternative of leading the jack of trumps at trick two, intending to run it if West follows with a low card, is not quite as good. It loses a trick to a singleton queen of trumps with East and then it would then be annoying to run into a diamond ruff.

A Leading Question

Thanks to Ron Klinger for this one.

You hold

♠ - ♥ 3 ♦ QJ109654 ♣ K10854

You choose to open 3♦ at all vul. Next player doubles and 4♥ from rho closes the auction.

Your lead?

Ron is adamant that the correct lead is the 9 or 10 of diamonds.

On this layout, it should produce the desired result.

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♠ Q19642
♥ KQ64
♦ 83
♣ AJ

♠
♥ 3
♦ QJ109654
♣ K10854

♠ AKJ
♥ A872
♦ K2
♣ 9763

♠ 98753
♥ J1095
♦ A7
♣ Q2

When partner takes trick one with the ♦A, he really should ask himself why you have chosen such a strange card from your pre-empt suit. The only answer can be that you are drawing his attention to the spade suit. A spade return will then sink the contract.

Minor Inconvenience

Clubs and diamonds seemed to be the crucial flavours in the matches which I watched today.

First up was a Seniors' match with Ron Klinger(S) and Bill Haughie opposing Charlie Schwabegger (E) and Stan Klofa.

Board 6 saw Bill and Ron pass up a tidy penalty to concede one themselves.

	♠ A3	Dir: E
6	♥ 72	Vul: E-W
	♦ AJ765	
	♣ AQJ7	
♠ QJ6	♠ 9542	
♥ AQJ9	♥ 5	
♦ KQ3	♦ T842	
♣ 643	♣ KT82	
	♠ KT87	
	♥ KT8643	
	♦ 9	
	♣ 95	

After two passes, Stan opened 1NT and Bill doubled. Charlie passed which forced Stan to



redouble so that Charlie could bid his 4 card suits on the way up. Stan did as he was told (unlike most partners) and Charlie offered 2♣. Ron gave this a lot of thought but emerged with 3♥. (Deepfinesse says that North-South can make 1♣ so Charlie is presumably going for 500 if Bill gets the chance to double. No other two level contract is any better.)

Over 3♥, Bill opted for 3NT.

Charlie led a spade to the Jack and Ace and Bill set about trying to establish some heart tricks. When you look Stan's hand, you can see how fruitful this is going to be! In with the ♥9, Stan exited with a club to Bill's 9 and Charlie's major asset - ♠K. A second club from Charlie saw dummy's 9 score and Bill played the ♥3 which Stan took with the Jack. A club went to the Ace in the closed hand and Bill finessed the ♠8, losing to Stan's Queen. Stan played ♦K, ducked, and cashed his ♥A to leave

♠ 6 ♥ Q ♦ Q3 ♣	♠ ♥ ♦ AJ7 ♣ J	♠ 9 ♥ ♦ 1084 ♣
	♠ K10 ♥ K10 ♦ ♣	

Although Bill had four major suit winners on table, when Stan exited with a diamond, Bill could not prevent Charlie's splendid hand gaining its second trick for three down.

Two hands later and the diamond suit again caused problems for Bill and Ron

8 ♠ KT96 ♥ T62 ♦ K543 ♣ 42	Dir: W Vul: None
♠ AQ73 ♥ AQ93 ♦ J92 ♣ AK	♠ J842 ♥ J85 ♦ Q ♣ Q9873
♠ 5 ♥ K74 ♦ AT876 ♣ JT65	

The auction meandered around the table as

West	North	East	South
1♣	P	1♦	x
xx	2♦	P	P
x	P	3♣	

1♣ and 1♦ were Precision and Ron's double of 1♦ showed diamonds.

Ron led the ♦A and continued the suit. Charlie played dummy's 9 to extract Bill's King. A successful heart finesse enabled dummy's club tops to be cashed before Charlie discarded a heart on the ♦J. He then ruffed a heart and had 9 tricks.



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Then Charlie faced a bidding problem. He held

♠ K J 5 3 2 ♥ - ♦ 9 3 ♣ A K Q J 6 4

Stan passed and Bill opened 1♠!

I seem to remember reading somewhere that, with length in the opponents suit, you shouldn't bid. Obviously, Charlie hadn't read the same article and, after some thought, he tried the effect of 5♣. Ron doubled but the ♠Q lead did Charlie no real harm even though Ron ruffed a spade a trick two. The defence took its diamonds but two down was only -300 against the heart game available to North-South, not to mention the diamond slam on these cards.

<p>12</p> <p>♠ A9764 ♥ A86 ♦ KJ42 ♣ T</p> <p>♠ T8 ♥ T7543 ♦ T5 ♣ 9872</p> <p>♠ Q ♥ KQJ92 ♦ AQ876 ♣ 53</p>	<p><i>Dir: W</i> <i>Vul: N-S</i></p> <p>♠ KJ532 ♥ ♦ 93 ♣ AKQJ64</p>
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Then Stan and Charlie had a minor suit disaster of their own – and this one was a major on the scorecard.

<p>18</p> <p>♠ AK5 ♥ J863 ♦ KQT4 ♣ 86</p> <p>♠ T3 ♥ T ♦ AJ96 ♣ KQJ974</p> <p>♠ 864 ♥ AQ975 ♦ ♣ AT532</p>	<p><i>Dir: E</i> <i>Vul: N-S</i></p> <p>♠ QJ972 ♥ K42 ♦ 87532 ♣</p>
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Charlie opened 2NT to show a 5-5 in either ♥+♣ or ♠+♦.

Ron passed and Stan enquired with 3♣ which Bill doubled. Charlie corrected to 3♦ and Ron tried 3♥. That sent Stan off to 5♦. Bill doubted the viability of this contract and expressed his doubts with a double.

Ron led the ♣A and Charlie ruffed – which looks like a great start for declarer. Things did not continue quite as well when the ♦2



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continuation saw Ron discard a heart. Charlie played the 9 from dummy and Bill the 10. Bill cashed his spade tops and led the ♥J collecting Charlie's King under Ron's Ace. Ron allowed table to ruff the ♥Q and Charlie cashed the ♠K. Bill ruffed the next club honour with the Queen of trumps and sat back to wait for his ♦K to generate four off and +800.

Off on the Last Train in the compartment shared by international players David Appleton (N) and Peter Reynolds opposing Arjuna Delivera (W) and Ian Robinson. First out of the box was another minor suit teaser.

17 ♠ KJ2 Dir: N
 ♥ KQ862 Vul: None
 ♦ 984
 ♣ KT

♠ AQ7 ♠ 86
 ♥ 4 ♥ J9753
 ♦ KJ63 ♦ AT75
 ♣ Q7653 ♣ A4

♠ T9543
 ♥ AT
 ♦ Q2
 ♣ J982

David opened the North cards with 1♥ and Peter countered with 1♠. Arjuna was looking at someone else's, so he doubled for takeout. David redoubled and Ian jumped to 3♦ which drew the auction to a close.

With a spade, a heart and a club to lose and plenty of work to do, locating the ♦Q looks to be important. Ian managed it without difficulty.

The ♥A was cashed by Peter and then he played the ♠10 through dummy's tenace. The Queen, King and 6 completed the trick. The ♠J came next, taken by the Ace and Ian came off table with a club. In hand with the Ace, he played a second club. When Peter played the Jack, Ian got it right by ducking to David's King.

David switched to a spade and Ian ruffed. He ruffed a heart on table and played the ♠Q, both David and declarer pitching hearts. The ♠6 was ruffed in the closed hand and Ian ruffed a heart while David dropped his King.

With 7 tricks in the bag, Ian ruffed the ♠7 with the Ace of trumps and took a trump finesse for his tenth trick.

Then the club suit enabled David to exert pressure on East-West.

21 ♠ K86 Dir: N
 ♥ AJ82 Vul: N-S
 ♦ AQ2
 ♣ AT5

♠ AQJ4 ♠ T973
 ♥ QT64 ♥ K3
 ♦ J654 ♦ K97
 ♣ 6 ♣ 9832

♠ 52
 ♥ 975
 ♦ T83
 ♣ KQJ74

David declared 3NT from the North seat and Ian opened the ♠10 which Arjuna took with the Ace. David ducked the spade continuation but took the third round of the suit. He cashed four rounds of clubs to produce

♠ ♠ 7
 ♥ AJ8 ♥ K3
 ♦ AQ2 ♦ K97
 ♣ ♣

♠ ♠
 ♥ Q106 ♥ 97
 ♦ J64 ♦ 1083
 ♣ ♣ K



David had 5 tricks and, when he cashed the last club, it didn't matter how Arjuna and Ian discarded, he always had four more.

Then a minor suit spelt the death of a 3NT contract though Ian could have got it right (granted a mirror, cunningly placed behind either North or South.)

30	♠ 9752 ♥ 65 ♦ T9876 ♣ Q7	<i>Dir: E</i> <i>Vul: None</i>
♠ T4 ♥ AK83 ♦ A42 ♣ AJ85	♠ AKJ63 ♥ Q94 ♦ 53 ♣ K64	
	♠ Q8 ♥ JT72 ♦ KQJ ♣ T932	

After a 5 card Stayman sequence, Ian declared the nine trick game from East. Peter led the ♦K. Not possessed with second sight nor a handy reflector, Ian ducked two rounds and then finessed the ♣J. Unlucky.

Unlike Michael Prescott and Tony Leibowitz on the very next board.

31	♠ 73 ♥ KQJ63 ♦ QT87 ♣ 53	<i>Dir: S</i> <i>Vul: N-S</i>
♠ 965 ♥ 7 ♦ K9432 ♣ K987	♠ AKQ4 ♥ A42 ♦ A5 ♣ AT62	
	♠ JT82 ♥ T985 ♦ J6 ♣ QJ4	

Michael opened 2NT after three passes. Tony went for minor suit Stayman with a 3♣ bid. In Michael's view, as Tony is a passed hand, this

should be a serious constructive effort so he reached for his driver - 6♣. Although disappointed by the sight of dummy, the lie of the cards did not extend Michael's declarer play.

Bulletin material can be emailed to

alan@taylor.co.nz

the 0 is a zero not a letter

or can be left at the Congress Desk

If any player wants a copy of any photograph in this or any other bulletin, then please email me at the address above. Make sure that you specify which photograph you want. I won't guarantee to respond immediately but I will respond eventually. More section winner photos tomorrow.

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Winners of the 0-49 Teams were

Odette Mayne, Pamela McKittirck Lee Egerton and (missing) Jeffrey Wong



And runners-up

Julie Maloney, Deborah Turner, Evelyn Malouf and Pauline O'Donoghue



The winners of the 0-99 Teams

Peter Ashman, Bill Donovan, John Donovan and Alexander Hewat



And the runners-up

Barry Foster, Hope Tomlinson, Martin Johnson and John Duncan

LAST TRAIN OPEN

Place	Name	Score
1	I Robinson, A De Livera	155
2	W Smith, T Hutton	135
3	T Glass, B Glass	133
4	C Quail, R Hills	132
5	D Appleton, P Reynolds	130
6	M Smart, G Kozakos	130
7	R Curnow, P Grant	127
8	N Francis, A Maluish	124
9	T Antoff, A Simpson	124
10	P Markey, J Williams	122
11	N Hughes, D Morgan	122
12	N Van Vucht, B Waters	121
13	J Foster, D Weston	120
14	D Beauchamp, E Adams	118
15	D McLeish, N Van Jole	117
16	P Jeffery, J Abel	116
17	M Wilkinson, M Bookallil	113
18	M Prescott, T Leibowitz	113
19	B Nash, J Wallis	107
20	K Dyke, L Leibowitz	93
21	A Mendenilla, D Kristanda	91
22	H Horwitz, P Gosney	89

LIFE MASTER TEAMS

Place	Name	Score
1	Ross	170
2	Scerri	162
3	Macquarrie	161
4	O'Connor	161
5	Weaver	158
6	Unknown	149
7	Donaldson	149
8	Dalziell	148
9	Zuber	148
10	Butcher	147
11	Bugeia	146
12	Kassam	145
13	Kalejs	143
14	Allen	143
15	Norlyng	139
16	Perrin	137
17	Geromboux	135
18	Fox	135

NATIONAL WOMENS TEAMS

Top 4 Qualify for semi-finals

Place	Name	Score
1	Bourke	177
2	Hoffman	157
3	Chadwick	154
4	Moses	154
5	Richardson	152
6	Havas	152
7	Evans	147
8	Cormack	146
9	Travis	145
10	Schroor	145
11	Tucker	144
12	Callander	143
13	Mott	134
14	Farthing	133
15	Lyons	132
16	Bloom	130
17	Samuel	129
18	Marler	128
19	Giura	126
20	Stralow	125
21	Fletcher	123
22	Carmichael	123
23	Cornish	120
24	Van Der Hor	117
25	Ingham	115
26	Campbell	109
27	Codognotto	92
28	Baldwin	86

LIFE MASTERS (cont)

19	Houghton	134
20	Morrison	134
21	Hill	132
22	Foreman	128
23	Casey	128
24	Lockwood	128
25	Watson	127
26	Lander	126
27	Dale	125
28	Talbot	121
29	Berry	119
30	Wright	115
31	Bennett	114
32	Whitmee	114
33	Christiaen	108
34	Maddigan	108
35	Mitchell	103
36	Jeffrey	102

NATIONAL SENIORS TEAMS

Top 6 qualify for stage 2

Place	Name	Score
1	Brown	194
2	Klinger	175
3	Zollo	159
4	Bilski	156
5	Dudley	156
6	Finikiotis	155
7	Schmidt	154
8	Howe	151
9	Milston	151
10	Davies	150
11	Krochmalik	149
12	Grieve	149
13	Bloom	145
14	Brockwell	143
15	Tishler	143
16	Fallet	143
17	Thorp	142
18	Crockett	141
19	Johnman	141
20	Ong	137
21	Ohlsen	134
22	Abbenbroek	132
23	Knaggs	131
24	Garrick	130
25	Pettitt	129
26	Carberry	128
27	Sturgul	128
28	Mottram	127
29	Szabo	126
30	Lucas	126
31	Hardie	126
32	Rocks	125
33	Hill	125
34	Buchen	122
35	Tulpule	120
36	Anlezark	120
37	Hucker	120
38	Taylor	119
39	Allgood	118
40	Lewin	116
41	Tobin	113
42	Rothwell	110
43	Ham	105
44	Gilbert	102
45	Wehner	97
46	Percival	96

NON LIFE MASTER TEAMS

Place	Name	Score
1	Lawrie	168
2	Carr	142
3	Attwood	134
4	Prickett	131
5	Nilsson	129
6	Noonan	128
7	Nelan	124
8	Cariola	124
9	O'Donohue	122
10	Tough	120
11	Devries	120
12	Kent	120
13	Land	119
14	Johnson	114
15	Duff	114
16	Baker	112
17	Clift	111
18	Lamport	98
19	Waight	91
20	Newton	66

NATIONAL NOVICE TEAMS

Place	Name	Score
1	Buckley	150
2	Tuckey	149
3	Donovan	146
4	Farmer	137
5	Gooding	136
6	Tomlinson	132
7	Kennedy	130
8	Carew	128
9	Mulholland	122
10	Mendonca	121
11	Ziffer	117
12	Waizer	116
13	Truscott	114
14	Mayne	112
15	Macklow	110
16	Saville	109
17	De Palo	109
18	Turner	105
19	Wright	86
20	Davidson	64