

# Do You Overrule?

Often in competitive auctions one has the feeling of not having been invited to the party. Partner has seemingly made the crucial decision and one's natural reflex is to pass. But reflex should not replace reflection. Bidding calls for extra courage here, because partner is not likely to be charitable when you overrule him to lose a board he has won.

To add tension to the decisions in the quiz, let's imagine that the deals take place in the finals of the Reisinger (*one of the premier North American events which is scored on a point-a-board basis*). This means that the keenest form of scoring, board-a-match, is in use, and that all of the players are imaginative and expert. You are sitting in the newspaper seat, South. Solutions appear on page 36.

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## PROBLEM 1

*East/West Game.*

South	West	North	East
—	—	—	1♠
Pass	Pass	3NT	Pass
?			

You hold:

♠ AQ5 ♥ J7 ♦ 1053 ♣ K10842

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## PROBLEM 2

*Love All.*

South	West	North	East
—	4♥	4♠	Dble
?			

You hold:

♠ 10853 ♥ 10762 ♦ KJ4 ♣ 52

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## PROBLEM 3

*North/South Game.*

South	West	North	East
—	Pass	1♠	2♥
Pass	3♥	Pass	4♥
Pass	Pass	Dble	Pass
?			

You hold:

♠ J962 ♥ 6 ♦ 754 ♣ J7654

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## PROBLEM 4

*East/West Game.*

South	West	North	East
1♥	1♠	1NT	2♠
Pass	Pass	2NT	Pass
?			

You hold:

♠ 84 ♥ K9842 ♦ A8 ♣ AJ96

his own favourite in this collection, but certainly every bridge lover will find much enjoyment in the collection as a whole.

**YOU NEED NEVER LOSE AT BRIDGE**

by Victor Mollo

Available from IPBM — price £7.20

By now nearly everyone must be familiar with the menagerie characters and either love or hate the insufferable Hog. What has added interest to this latest book in the series is that we have had the oppor-

tunity to see his creator on television. It was good to see that he sometimes got his 'come-uppance' in real life, which never happens in the book. It was interesting to see Victor Mollo frequently employing one of the Hog's usual devices of cue-bidding non-existing controls or bidding non-existent suits; but his real life opponents seemed to have been there before and did not fall for it as his fictional opponents invariably do.

A point of interest for me was that one of the hands in this book came up in the Charity Challenge Cup this year.

Unfortunately for me, I did not read this until after the event. I would not have made the brilliant play described, but fortunately the opponents gave me the contract anyway.

Much of the book, as usual, is concerned with the psychology involved in top level bridge. I am a simple soul like the Rabbit (but unfortunately without his guardian angel) and I sympathise with his comment 'I am afraid that I will never play well enough to go down on a hand like that. I mean you have to see so far ahead not to make nine tricks'.

# Do You Overrule?

## SOLUTIONS

by DAVID WEISS (California, USA)

**PROBLEM 1**

The pass seems so easy. But what is partner's hand? Surely seven or eight diamonds and the guarded spade king. What do you think opener has? Passing is a gamble that partner has hearts stopped or that opener will not know to lead them, and you know partner does not have very many of that suit. Well, maybe they'll block them.

♠ 942	♠ K8	♠ J10763
♥ 98643	♥ Q	♥ AK1052
♦ 6	♦ AKQJ9742	♦ 8
♣ Q753	♣ 96	♣ AJ

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ AQ5	♠ K10842
♥ J7	
♦ 1053	
♣ K10842	

Your team-mates got the heart suit in on a slower auction, so the opponents settled for a diamond part-score. If you (reasonably) bid four diamonds you tie the board, but if you (brilliantly!) bid five diamonds score up a win.

**PROBLEM 2**

If 'content' were a permissible call, it would be suitable here. But if you simply pass, partner will not sense your mood, and he will go ahead and try to find a safer refuge. The auction suggests that North has a two-suiter, and if you do not redouble your side will have to play five spades doubled.

♠ —	♠ AQJ62	♠ K974
♥ AKQ9854	♥ —	♥ J3
♦ 10932	♦ Q6	♦ A875
♣ 43	♣ AQJ987	♣ K106

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ 10853	♠ K1062
♥ 10762	
♦ KJ4	
♣ 52	

Your West played five hearts doubled, down one, so score a win if you redoubled and a loss if you blithely passed.

**PROBLEM 3**

Your bones probably tell you that four hearts is going to make, but pulling would be a breach of discipline. If partner were interested in your hand he would have made a take-out double on the previous round. His double of four hearts may be speculative, but he intends it for penalties. A good rule is never to pull a penalty double to a certain minus score.

♠ 4	♠ A10873	♠ KQ5
♥ K72	♥ QJ10	♥ A98543
♦ J10832	♦ AQ	♦ K96
♣ A1082	♣ K93	♣ Q

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ J962	♠ K10975
♥ 6	♥ AJ3
♦ 754	♦ Q9
♣ J7654	♣ Q52

Your bones were right, but you still win the board by passing. At the other table, your counterpart ran to four spades, and that cost 800. This time just sitting on the log paid off. Was North wrong to double four hearts? Is greed a crime?

**PROBLEM 4**

Partner's two no-trumps is in no way conventional, but you should at least have considered pulling. Let's infer his hand. He must have maximal values for his original one no-trump call, and he probably has a doubleton heart honour. He must have spades doubly stopped, but he cannot have much length or he would double. Thus we can expect him to hold the minors, but without high cards in his suits.

♠ AQ	♠ J632
♥ Q5	♥ 1076
♦ J7532	♦ K1064
♣ 8743	♣ K10

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ 84	♠ K10975
♥ K9842	♥ AJ3
♦ A8	♦ Q9
♣ AJ96	♣ Q52

Their side's North preferred a negative double over one spade, then he guessed to pass his partner's three club bid. Whether they are lucky or good scarcely matters; score a loss if you passed two no-trumps. If you bid three clubs, you salvaged a half.