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## In this Bulletin ...

The day-time results rankings -pairs (pp3-4) and individuals (p.11)

More on cue bids with example hands from Earl Dudley and, for aficionados, Richard Hills introduces the concept of denial cue bids.

Ian Thomson takes us into the world of competitive bidding tactics with a series of examples of how to put the opponents between a rock and a hard place.

- and some Seniors Day pictures.


## Puzzle 1: Little Things Mean A Lot by Gary Hollands

On the hands below you (East) have managed to get to 6 S . All that remains is to make the contract and given it's teams making just 12 tricks will be superb.

```
@Q43
\8742
-T8
*Q42
AKT9652
AK
A42
3
```

Pity about the Q in dummy, wasted points, although without it you may not bid to 6 S .

The A led followed by the Kow do you play from now on to give yourself the best chance of making the contract?
Answer on $p 5$.

## Puzzle 2: Using the Right Cutlery By Steve Hurley

During the Illawarra Bridge Association's teams event on Sunday 5 March, a very interesting hand arose. Your hand is AKJ9 $\mathrm{AQ} 2 \downarrow \mathrm{Qx} \boldsymbol{\mathrm { Kxx }}$. After showing your strong hand partner shows a weak hand and you finish in 3NT. Dummy is displayed opposite your hand:

| \&AKJ9 | Tx |
| :--- | :--- |
| \&AQJ2 | 83 |
| \&Qx | KJTxxx |
| \&Kxx | Qxx |

A small heart is led, and after you play low in dummy, right hand opponent (RHO) plays the $\vee 10$ and you win with the Q .

Counting your tricks, you need to establish the diamonds to make your contract. So you play the Q Q which is ducked, and then your RHO takes the third trick with the A .

A small heart is led back, which you duck, and LHO's $\checkmark 9$ wins. A third heart is played to your Jack, and the RHO plays the $\uparrow 2$ indicating a liking for clubs.

You now have 3 tricks, you need to find another 6. These are the remaining cards - what do you play now?

| -AKJ9 | Tx |
| :---: | :---: |
| * A | - |
| - | JTxx |
| *Kxx | Qx |

Answer on $p 9$.

## Oct 05-March 06 Daytime Rankings

October-December 2005

## Monday

| 1st | Colleen Price | Connie Treloar | 18 |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| 2nd | Sheila Murray | Jim Murray | 14 |
| 3rd | Joan Cremen | Anne Baldwin | 13 |
| 4th | Barbara Crone | June O’Donnell | 12 |
| 5th= Lillian Tidey | Ashok Tulpule | 11 |  |
| 5th $=$ Marie Whalan | Ruth Mackey | 11 |  |
| 7th= Gillian Parsons | Koi Headford | 10 |  |
| 7th= Mary Tough | Kerry Butcher | 10 |  |
| 9th= Helene Haslam | Rita Lawrey | 9 |  |
| 9th= Lance McDougal | Harold McCormick | 9 |  |
| 9th= Rasma Bandle | Inesmarie Hodg- | 9 |  |
|  | kinson |  |  |

## Tuesday

| 1st | Neil Naughton | Peter Forgie | 16 |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| 2nd $=$ | Betty Lewis | Ella Beer | 13 |
| 2nd $=$ Graham | Basil Rebera | 13 |  |
|  | Dickerson |  |  |
| 2nd $=$ Madge Bayin | Leslie Childs | 13 |  |
| 5th | John Worsley | Anita Lyons | 10 |
| 6th $=$ Jan Johnston | Shirley Coulthard | 7 |  |
| 6th $=$ June Lomax | Pat Lewis | 7 |  |
| 8th $=$ Alex Preece | Anne Preece | 6 |  |
| 8th $=$ Helen Draper | Pat Brodie | 6 |  |
| 8th $=$ Malcolm Aldons | Barry Midgley | 6 |  |

## Wednesday

| 1st | Alex Preece | Anne Preece | 20 |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| 2nd | Rasma Bandle | Inesmarie <br> Hodgkinson | 18 |
| 3rd | Andrew Leslie | Malcolm Aldons | 15 |
| 4th $=$ | Connie Treloar | Brian Treloar | 13 |
| 4th $=$ | Sheila Murray | Jim Murray | 13 |
| 6th $=$ | Gwenda | Flo Gray | 8 |
|  | Fitzgerald |  | 8 |
| 6th $=$ | Pat Lewis | Denise McClellan | 8 |
| 8th | Catherine <br> Marsden | Peter Marsden | 4 |

## January—March 2006

## Monday

| 1st | Sheila Murray | Jim Murray | 19 |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| 2nd | Colleen Price | Connie Treloar | 17 |
| 3rd | Joan Banyard | Clive Landau | 12 |
| 4th | Lillian Tidey | Ashok Tulpule | 11 |
| 5th= | Alan Scerri | Susan Scerri | 10 |
| 5th $=$ | Anne White | Helen Byrne | 10 |
| 7th | Rasma Bandle | Inesmarie | 9 |
|  |  | Hodgkinson |  |
| 8th= | Lance McDougal | Harold McCormick | 8 |
| 8th= | Mary Fogarty | Gwen Paltridge | 8 |

Tuesday

| 1st | Alex Preece | Anne Preece | 16 |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| 2nd $=$ | Ann Ng | Elizabeth <br> Rogoyska | 11 |
| 2nd $=$ | June Lomax | Pat Lewis | 11 |
| 2nd $=$ | Neil Naughton | Peter Forgie | 11 |
| 5th $=$ | Betty Lewis | Brian Richardson | 9 |
| 5th $=$ | John Worsley | Anita Lyons | 9 |
| 5th $=$ | Neil Jones | Barbara Jones | 9 |
| 8th $=$ | Betty Lewis | Terri Henderson | 7 |
| 8th $=$ | Madge Bayin | Lesley Childs | 7 |
| $10=$ | Jan Johnston | Shirley Coulthard | 6 |
| $10=$ | Maureen | Pat Skinner | 6 |

## Wednesday

| 1st | Gwenda Fitzgerald | Flo Gray | 14 |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| 2 nd $=$ Sheila Murray | Jim Murray | 13 |  |
| 2nd $=$ Andrew Leslie | Malcolm Aldons | 13 |  |
| 4th | Alex Preece | Anne Preece | 12 |
| 5th | Elaine Leach | Geoff Hutchins | 11 |
| 6th $=$ Connie Treloar | Brian Treloar | 7 |  |
| 6th $=$ Colleen Price | Anne Baldwin | 7 |  |
| 8th $=$ Rasma Bandle | Max van <br> Appledorn | 6 |  |
| 8th= Edith Blumenthal | Ruth Landau | 6 |  |
| 8th= Rasma Bandle | Inesmarie <br> Hodgkinson | 6 |  |

## Thursday

| 1st | Lillian Tidey | Ashok Tulpule | 18 |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| 2nd | Trevor Berenger | Ian Dalziell | 16 |
| 3rd= | Rasma Bandle | Ruth Landau | 13 |
| 3rd= | Ruth Conley | Sue Hume | 13 |
| 3rd= | Colleen Price | Anne Baldwin | 13 |
| 6th | John Daly | Joan Willis | 12 |
| 7th | Trish O'Keefe | Geoff Hutchins | 11 |
| 8th | Madge Bayin | Mary Houston | 10 |
| 9th $=$ | Ronnie Carlsson | Colleen Perriman | 9 |
| 9th $=$ | Sheila Murray | Flo Gray | 9 |

## Friday

| 1 st $=$ | Geoff Kolts | Jane Lindsay | 15 |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| 1 st $=$ | Harold McCor- <br> mick | Lance McDougal | 15 |
| 3rd | Nancy Hitchcock | Betty Lewis | 12 |
| 4th | Neil Naughton | Jill Cromer | 10 |
| 5th | Barbara Jones | Neil Jones | 9 |
| 6th | Catherine <br>  <br> Marsden | Peter Marsden | 7 |
| 7th $=$ | Barbara <br> Silverstone | Helen van Gelder | 6 |
| 7th $=$ | Harold Pass | Barbara Pass | 6 |
| 7 7th $=$ | Shirley Coulthard | Jan Munro | 6 |

## Saturday

| 1st | Connie Treloar | Brian Treloar | 14 |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| 2nd $=$ | Neil Naughton | Gillian Parsons | 12 |
| 2nd $=$ | Don Beer | Ella Beer | 12 |
| 4th | Judy Ryan | Jeff Brokenshire | 10 |
| 5th | Jean Jarvie | Sue Hume | 9 |
| 6th | Colleen Perriman | Heather Herrick | 8 |
| 7th $=$ | Alan Scerri | Susan Scerri | 6 |
| 7th $=$ | Jean Wilson | David Luck | 6 |
| 9th | Margaret Horgan | Lesley Childs | 4 |

## Thursday

| 1st | Colleen Perriman | Ronnie Carlsson | 17 |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| 2nd | Trish O'Keeffe | Geoff Hutchins | 16 |
| 3rd | Rasma Bandle | Ruth Landau | 11 |
| 4th | Jim Murray | Robin Erskine | 10 |
| 5th= Colleen Price | Joan Cremen | 9 |  |
| 5th $=$ | Connie Treloar | Barbara Crone | 9 |
| 5th= Joan Banyard | Judy Collins | 9 |  |
| 8th= Helen Draper | Gillian Parsons | 8 |  |
| 8th= John Daly | Joan Willis | 8 |  |
| 8th= Sheila Murray | Flo Gray | 8 |  |

## Friday

| 1st | Harold <br> McCormick | Lance McDougal | 26 |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| 2nd | Nancy Hitchcock | Betty Lewis | 15 |
| 3rd | Neil Naughton | Jill Cromer | 13 |
| 4th | Brian Richardson | Tom Coogan | 10 |
| 5th $=$ | Geoff Kolts | Jane Lindsay | 9 |
| 5th $=$ | Justine Beaumont | Andrew Leslie | 9 |
| 7th | Shirley Coulthard | Jan Munro | 8 |
| 8th= Ann Ng | Jim Chan | 7 |  |
| 8th $=$ | Averil Steel | Annette Steadman | 7 |
| 8th $=$ | Connie Treloar | Barbara Crone | 7 |

## Saturday

| 1st | Ruth Gallagher | Jim Murray | 16 |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| 2nd | Colleen Perriman | Heather Herrick | 8 |
| 3rd $=$ | Eileen Diprose | Flo Gray | 7 |
| 3rd $=$ | Malcolm Aldons | Barry Midgley | 7 |
| 5th $=$ | Ann Mellings | Graham Atkinson | 6 |
| 5th $=$ | Connie Treloar | Brian Treloar | 6 |
| 5th $=$ | Don Beer | Ella Beer | 6 |
| 8th | Ross Addison | Catherine Phillips | 4 |

## How It Works

You are given three points for a first, two for a second and one for a third. If regular night competition players participated in the movement, they were excluded from the calculation. Day-time players playing with a competition player were also excluded from that movement. So if the movement was won by a night-time player, the day time player coming second was allocated the three points. (The two Monday sessions were combined as so many switch between movements over the period). To avoid a bias in favour of smaller movements, you needed to get a score of at least 50 per cent to pick up points.

## Cue Bidding

## by Earl Dudley

How do you recognise early on that cue bidding is going to be better than Blackwood?

Where you know you have less than your quota of HCP to be able to bid slam on the basis of combined high card strength. Cue bids can establish the degree to which the hands fit and whether there are wasted values. Typically, the hand initiating cue bidding will have a singleton or void.

| All Vulnerable, Dealer: South |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| ^ AT |  |  | a K93 |
| $\checkmark$ J94 |  |  | - AKQ62 |
| - QT8754 |  |  | - - |
| - K5 |  |  | * AQJ98 |
| West | North | East | South |
| - | - | - | Pass |
| Pass | Pass | 1H | Pass |
| 2S* | Pass | 4C | Pass |
| 4S | Pass | 6 H | All P |

* $2 \mathrm{~S}=$ limit raise with 3-card support

Where the agreed suit is a minor and the response to Blackwood risks propelling the contract past 5 of the agreed suit with not enough controls to underwrite a slam contract.

All Vulnerable, Dealer: East

| - 3 | ^ AQT985 |
| :---: | :---: |
| $\checkmark$ K86 | $\bullet$ J52 |
| - AK94 | - - |
| * A6532 | * KQ74 |


| West | North | East | South |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| - | - | 1 S | Pass |
| 2C | Pass | $3 \mathrm{D}^{*}$ | Pass |
| 4C** | Pass | 4S | Pass |
| 4NT*** | Pass | $5 D^{* * * *}$ | Pass |
| 6C | All Pass |  |  |

* $3 \mathrm{D}=$ Splinter showing club support but not necessarily extra values.
**4C = Slam interest
***4NT = Waiting Bid
****5D = void and by inference fair trumps
here a major suit is agreed and partner invites game through a trial bid, you may chose to cue to accept the invitation with exceptional controls to cater for the situation where partner is fishing for slam.

NS Vulnerable, Dealer: North

| - AQJT5 | - 9873 |
| :---: | :---: |
| - 82 | $\checkmark$ AKT |
| - A | - QJ865 |
| * AT942 | * 6 |


| West | North | East | South |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| - | 1 H | Pass | 2 H |
| 2S | Pass | 3H | Pass |
| 4C | Pass | 4 H | Pass |
| 4S | Pass | 5C | Pass |
| 6S | All Pass |  |  |

Where there is no agreed suit and you must bid a suit at the 4-level to invite slam in that suit.

| - AQ7 | E-W Vulnerable: Dealer North |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| - A853 |  |  |  |  |
| - KJT65 | West | North | East | South |
| * A | - | 1D | 2S | 3C |
| - T4 | Pass | 3NT | Pass | 4D |
| $\stackrel{\rightharpoonup}{*}-\mathrm{AQ} 42$ | Pass | 4H | Pass | 5D |
| \& KJ86532 | Pass | 6 D | All Pa |  |

Where you have the weaker hand in a bidding sequence (perhaps partner has opened 2C) - you temporise with a cue bid so that partner can invoke Roman Key Card Blackwood (RKCB) (see explanation next page).

Nil Vulnerable, Dealer: South

| - J6 | A AT75 |
| :---: | :---: |
| - AKQ32 | $\checkmark$ JT74 |
| - AQT | -KJ65 |
| \& KJT | \& 7 |


| West | North | East | South |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| - | - | - | Pass |
| 2C | Pass | 2NT | Pass |
| 3H | Pass | 3S | Pass |
| 3NT | Pass | 4D | Pass |
| 6H | All Pass |  |  |

Where you need to cue in order to show extra values as opposed to raising partner to game.

| ^ J8 |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $\checkmark$ KQJ874 | NS Vulnerable : Dealer East |  |  |  |
| - Q2 |  |  |  |  |
| * AK3 | West | North | East | South |
|  | - | - | Pass | 1S |
| ^ AQT9642 | 3D | 3H | Pass | 3 S |
| $\checkmark$ A2 | Pass | 4C | Pass | 4H |
| - 6 | Pass | 4S | Pass | 6 S |
| * QT7 | All Pass |  |  |  |

Where you agree trumps at a low level so that cue bidding gives you a lot of bidding room to exchange information.
^ KQ94

- T9 Nil Vulnerable: Dealer South
- K84
- AK72

A A8762
$\checkmark$ A

- AQT
* JT94


## Little Things Mean A Lot by Gary Hollands



AKT9652
AK
A42
3

Finding the strategy is not difficult-the only hope is to set up the heart suit in dummy so that you can discard your diamond losers.

The important thing is to think before you think. How often would we ruff unthinkingly with the lowest trump (in this case the two) and then think about how to play the hand. If you do on this hand, your chance of making the contract has gone as you can no longer use the trumps enough time as an entry to get at dummy's eventual winning hearts.

Roman Key Card Blackwood has the same purpose as ordinary Blackwood but pairs playing this also ask about the King of trumps when they bid 4NT (or 3NT sometimes after an agreed suit as in Earl's sequence). There are, therefore, five possible "aces". There are two ways of playing it. The most common responses are $5 \mathrm{C}=0$ or $3,5 \mathrm{D}=1$ or $4,5 \mathrm{H}=2$ without the trump queen, $5 \mathrm{~S}=2$ with the queen. Some pairs though play 5C as 1 or 4 and 5D as 0 or 3 . If no suit has been agreed, some pairs use the last bid suit as the "trump" suit for the bidding, others revert to normal Blackwood.

## New Stairlift—Award Winning Safety Design



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## Why Take Any Risk?

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## Competitive Bidding

## by Ian Thomson

(These are notes of Ian's excellent seminar on At table 2 the double, instead of a bid allowed bidding where he makes the point that bidding is East to show their hand.
not just about the points and shape of your hand.
The bidders' job is to make life difficult for the When bidding in these auctions, you need to opponents without exposing themselves to unwise consider the options your bid provides your risk.)
opponents.
Hand 1: "(Give them an inch and On this hand, there is a significant cost of allow-
they will take a mile)"

| A KT8xxx |  |
| :---: | :---: |
| $\checkmark$ AKx |  |
| - - |  |
| \% AKQx |  |
| A AQJ9 | Ax |
| $\checkmark$ - | $\checkmark 9 \mathrm{xxxx}$ |
| - KJTxxx | - AQxxx |
| \& xxx | \& xx |
| A 53 |  |
| -QJTxx |  |
| - Xx |  |
| \&xxxx |  |

At both tables East showed their two suited hand with a Michael's bid of 2 S over North's opening 1 S but things were different after that.

## Bidding Table 1

| N | E | S | W |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| $1 S$ | $2 S$ | $P$ | $3 C$ |
| $\mathbf{3 S}$ | $P$ | $P$ | $P$ |

North choose to bid rather than double and as a consequence removed the opportunity for East to show their minor. At table 2 the bidding took a very different course:

## Bidding Table 2

| $\mathbf{N}$ | $\mathbf{E}$ | $\mathbf{S}$ | $\mathbf{W}$ |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| 1 S | 2 S | P | 3 C |
| $\mathbf{X}$ | 3 D | P | 5D |
| $\underline{\mathrm{X}}$ | P | P | XX |
| P | P | P |  | ing the opponents to describe their hands. The chance of 3C being the final contract is low and therefore the X was allowing the opponents more options in describing their hand.

## Hand 2:

When Pushy Does Not Pay

- AKQxxx
$\bullet T$
- AJ9
$\%$ Qx
-     - 

Q9xxx
$\rightarrow K Q x x \quad * x$ \& JTxx
\#AKxxx
ATxx
$\vee \mathrm{KJxx}_{x}$
-Txx
\& $x x$

At both tables the first seven bids were identical but North's bidding of the hand produced very different outcomes.

## Bidding Table 1

| N | E | S | W |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
|  | 1 C | P | 1 H |
| X | 2 H | P | P |
| $\mathbf{3 S}$ | P | P | P |

At table 1 North showed a strong spade hand and gave South a chance to evaluate their hand. West was left with the decision - if West bids 4C, what action will be required if 4 S is bid by N/S?

## Bidding Table 2

| N | E | S | W |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
|  | 1 C | P | 1 H |
| X | 2 H | P | P |
| $\mathbf{4 S}$ | P | P | 5 C |
| X | P | P | P |

At table 2, North by jumping to 4 S, pushed West ence to bidding 3 S.
to 5C for a making doubled score.

## Hand 4

When bidding with strong hands there is a need to consider both your playing strength and defensive cards holding.

## Hand 3



Ax
$\bullet \mathrm{AKx}$

- xx

↔KQ9xxx
score than 3S.

This is a hand where it is right to involve partner and a double, therefore, providing that it shows a good 3 card spade raise with a balanced hand, is the best option. Next best is 3NT as the upside of the game bonus needs to be considered in prefer-


| $\boldsymbol{A T x x x}$ | A Kx |
| :---: | :---: |
| Vxxx | $\checkmark \mathrm{xx}$ |
| -Txxx | - Jxxx |
| \& Ax | 』KTxxx |

^QJxx
$\checkmark$ AKxx

- KQx
※Qxx

| N | $\mathbf{E}$ | $\mathbf{S}$ | W |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
|  |  | INT | P |
| 3NT | P | P | P |

Why did North choose to bid a direct 3NT rather than show a 5 card suit?

- Entries to hand
- Source of tricks
- Balanced hand

North's bid of 2 S is conservative but with a 4-3-3-3 the only other sound action is 1NT. Over 3C North has 4 choices: pass, double, 3 S or 3 NT .

What would a double show in your partnership? - Is it penalty or a good balanced raise to 2 S allowing partner to make the right choice.

What would a new suit show?

If you choose to bid, you need to consider the upside of bidding game -3 NT is a much better

Summary - Tactical Bidding
Success comes from

- Anticipating your opponents' options.
- Forcing your opponents to make the last decision.
- Involving partner as required - only provide information when helpful to partner.
- Considering "non standard" actions.


## Denial Cue Bids <br> By Richard Hills

## Alan Truscott <br> Alan Truscott, bridge correspondent for the New York Times, uses "Denial Cue Bids". This is Alan's explanation of them, with an indicative example.

Once the exact pattern and number of controls has been established, the relay asks the describer to show the location of his high honors. He looks at his suits in turn, starting with the longest and ending with the shortest, and acts as follows:

One step shows either weakness in the first suit or, rarely, great strength, AKQ any length or AK doubleton. (In semi-positive, three of top four honors is considered equivalent to AKQ and bids one step).

Two steps shows some strength in the first suit, and either weakness or great strength in the second suit. And so on. Here are two examples:

## Example 1

```
\DeltaA Q 4 2
* K9732
-Q65
&2
```

The earlier bidding has reached 3 NT , by a route (1C 1 H 1 S 1 N 2 C 2 H 2 S 3 D 3 H 3 N ) in which you have shown positive values, 4531 , and 3 controls. Next, after 4C relay, bid 4N to show a top card in hearts, spades and diamonds, denying a second useful honor in hearts. If partner relays with 5 C , bid 5 H , showing another useful honor in spades but nothing more in diamonds. The scan was: hearts, spades, diamonds, hearts, spades, diamonds, and could have continued with hearts and spades. In scanning through the suits to show honors, singletons are neglected and doubletons are scanned just once. If two or three suits are of equal length, the high-ranking is examined first and the low-ranking last.

## Example 2

Q Q 5432

- AK Q 32
- 32
$\$ 2$

The earlier bidding has reached 4 C by a route (1C 1H 1S 1N 2C 2S 2N 3H 3S 4C) in which you have shown positive values, 5521, and three controls. Then: 4D (relay) $4 \mathrm{H}=$ spades weak ( no A or K ) or very strong (AKQ); then 4 S (relay) $4 N T=$ hearts weak (no $A, K, Q$ ) or strong (AKQ); then 5C (relay) 5D = diamonds weak (no $\mathrm{A}, \mathrm{K}, \mathrm{Q}$ ); then 5 H (relay) $5 \mathrm{NT}=$ spade queen, no heart jack.

The scan through the suits continues until the controlling hand breaks the relay or the bidding reaches 6NT. There is one tricky point: When does a queen become a useful honor? The number of aces and kings you have decides. If you have one control card (not control) count a queen at once in your first suit. If you have two control cards, count a queen in your second suit, and so on. In the example just given, the spade queen did not count the first time around. But if the spades and hearts were reversed the queen would be in the second suit and would count because there are two control cards. The jack is a positive card when the queen has been denied. Tens are never considered. The number of steps you skip is the number of cards you show. So raising the relay skips four steps and shows four cards.

An alternative explanation of "Denial Cue Bids" can be found at: http://www.bridgeguys.com/ DGlossary/DenialCuebids.html

The Richard Hills over-succinct explanation of "Denial Cue Bids" (from the Ali-Hills system notes):

After controls have been shown, next relay starts denial cue bidding. Relayee looks at longest suit,
then next longest suit. When ties in suit length occur, look at highest ranking suit first.

- Singletons (including singleton honours) are not looked at in denial cue bidding.
- Doubletons are looked at once.
- Tripletons are looked at twice (on the second time round queens are investigated).

Longer suits are looked at three times. On the first look at a suit, it is inspected for an ace or king. On the second look, it is inspected for an additional top honour (usually a queen, unless the suit has AK) and on the third look, jacks are checked. If the first suit looked at does not have the required honour, the relayee denies it by making the cheapest bid. If the relayee holds a required honour in the longest suit but not in the second longest suit, then they call the second cheapest bid.
Future relays continue from where you left off.

- 1 st step $=$ no ace or king in longest suit
- 2 nd step $=$ ace or king in longest suit, and no ace or king in second longest suit
- 3rd step $=$ ace or king in longest suit, ace or king in second longest suit, and no ace or king in third longest suit, etc

Six card or longer suits
When first looking at a 6+ card suit, a denial does not say "no ace or king". Rather, a denial says "no two of top three honours". To bypass a 6+ suit on first round of denial cue bidding, you need either AK, AQ or KQ.
After a denial on the first round, a further denial says no ace, king or queen in the suit, while a show would promise one of the top three.

## Special Gimmick

When holding AKQ in a suit of five cards or less (ie does not apply to $6+$ card suits), basic denial cue bidding would frequently have insufficient bidding space to safely locate the queen. Therefore, denying at the first look at a suit either denies holding ace or king or promises a holding of AKQ. Given the three control difference between the two meanings, relayer should be able to pick which it is, especially after subsequent looks at the other suits.

# Using the Right Fork by Steve Hurley 

A small digression is helpful here. In the Middle Ages in Britain, Lord Councillor John Morton issued a decree to obtain more tax from the peasants. He said that if you were spending money, you could afford to pay more taxes, and if you were not spending, you had the money horded away and could afford to pay more taxes. This unpleasant set of choices became known as the Morton's fork.

So it is with bridge. The answer to this conundrum lies with the Morton's fork.

The correct card is the $\uparrow \mathrm{J}$. On the play of this card your LHO opponent is left with two unfortunate choices.

|  | A Tx |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | $\checkmark$ - |  |
|  | - JTxx |  |
|  | \& Qx |  |
| A Qxx |  | A xxx |
| $\checkmark \mathrm{Kx}$ |  | $\checkmark$ - |
| - x |  | - - |
| \& 9 x |  | a. AJTxx |
|  | a AJTxx |  |
|  | - AKJ9 |  |
|  | - A |  |
|  | * $K x x$ |  |

After playing the $\mathbf{~} \mathbf{J}$, if the LHO takes it, you have an entry to the long diamonds with the 10 spades. If he does not take it, then you can cash the two top spades dropping the Q , and the $\$ 9$ will be your $9^{\text {th }}$ trick.

The key to the play is the opponent's signal of the 2 2. This indicated that you could not play towards the Q Q as the was sitting over it, and although your LHO had 9 black cards before he discarded, he was not interested in protecting anything in spades. Therefore, the $\Phi \mathrm{Q}$ is likely to be on your left and supported by a couple of small spades.

## Cue Bids (2)

by Earl Dudley

In what sequences or situations is a bid of a suit a cue bid and how do you tell cue bids from asking bids?
This is rarely a problem. The only asking bids that tend to crop up are those arising from competitive intervention. If you cue the opponents' suit at the three-level when no suit has been agreed or a minor suit has been agreed, you are asking partner to bid 3NT with a stopper in the bid suit. If you then bid on, then partner should treat the 3-level bid as a cue bid.

Other general points about cue bids. Cue bidding is tricky when there is uncertainty about the quality of the trump suit. Some partnerships utilise no trump bids to show the possession of top cards in the trump suit. Others handle it inferentially. If cue bidding shows possession of all the critical controls and yet a player attempts to sign off below slam, then the inference is that there is a weakness in the trump

This hand is a nightmarish hand.

```
EW Vulnerable, Dealer: North
    A AKJ2
    A Q86
    \bullet T
        \bullet AKJ5
    * T64 AJ953
    & AK542 & 8
```

| West | North | East | South |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| - | Pass | 1D | Pass |
| 2C | Pass | 2H | Pass |
| 2S | Pass | 2NT | Pass |
| 3D | Pass | 3H | Pass |
| 3S | Pass | 4C | Pass |
| 4S | Pass | 6D | All Pass |

From East's perspective, give West the $\downarrow T$ and slam is goodish but without that card it is poor. How can you tell? East could have bid 5 H over 4 S but does West have enough to raise to 6D?

## Rules for control-showing bids:

1. Never pass a control-showing bid.
2. With one major exception, the partnership is committed to playing in the agreed trump suit once a control showing bid is made. The excep-
tion is when the agreed trump suit is a minor suit in which case bids of new suits at the 3-level are to be treated as no-trump probes rather than control showing bids. Hence 3NT bid by either player is non-forcing.
3. Normally bid Aces 1st, Voids 2nd, Kings 3rd and Singletons 4th. An exception is to bid a 2nd round control in a suit where previous bidding has shown or denied 1 st round control in the suit. Avoid bidding a singleton or void in a suit bid naturally by your partner.
4. The person in control of the auction may choose to bid a second round control before a first round control in order to elicit a response by partner at a convenient level.
5. With two or more controls, it is usually better to first bid the one that keeps the bidding lower.
6. Return to the agreed trump suit (at game level if possible) to discourage a slam try. A bid above game by partner is a strong slam try. Partner is normally obliged to show a control if able to do so below the agreed suit.
7. If a control-showing bid is doubled, redouble shows 2 nd round control of that suit. A pass encourages partner (as opposed to a return to agreed trump suit to discourage). Similar methods apply when a RKCB response is doubled.
8. If a splinter bid is doubled, redouble is a control showing bid.
9. 4NT in a control-showing sequence is a waiting bid denying an ability to show a control at a convenient level. (However, it is RKCB usually if there has been only one control-showing bid or if it is a jump bid).
10. Control-showing bids above five of the trump suit are a try for seven and often inferentially suggest a weakness in another suit.
11. If either partner is able to judge the correct final contract he or she should bid it as soon as possible.

## Daytime Individual Rankings

October -December 2005
1st Neil Naughton 63
2nd Connie Treloar 53
3rd= Rasma Bandle 41
3rd= Jim Murray 41
5th Colleen Price 39
6th Sheila Murray 38
7th Brian Treloar 34
8th $=$ Alex Preece 32
8th $=$ Anne Preece 32
10th Ella Beer 31
11th= Lillian Tidey 29
11th $=$ Ashok Tulpule 29
13th Andrew Leslie 27
14th Betty Lewis 25
15th Flo Gray 23

January-March 2006

| 1st | Jim Murray | 60 |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| 2nd | Neil Naughton | 50 |
| 3rd | Sheila Murray | 40 |
| 4th $=$ | Andrew Leslie | 37 |
| 4th $=$ | Colleen Price | 37 |
| 6th $=$ | Alex Preece | 36 |
| 6th $=$ | Anne Preece | 36 |
| 8th $=$ | Harold McCormick | 34 |
| 8th $=$ | Lance McDougal | 34 |
| 10th $=$ | Rasma Bandle | 31 |
| 10th $=$ | Betty Lewis | 31 |
| 12th $=$ | Flo Gray | 29 |
| 12th $=$ | Connie Treloar | 29 |
| 14th | Malcolm Aldons | 28 |
| 15th | Colleen Perriman | 27 |



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