

PATRICK JOURDAIN'S
PROBLEM
CORNER



as featured in BRIDGE Magazine

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INTRODUCTION

In October 1985, the provider of Britain's TV Channel 4 teletext service appointed me its bridge correspondent. My brief was to provide news items on bridge as well as three problems a week, one of which would provide the viewers with a chance to win a prize drawn from the correct solutions sent in.

This arrangement continued until the end of December 1992, so more than a thousand bridge problems appeared over seven years. The prize problems were all original compositions, though some of the themes would have been familiar to experienced solvers. I acknowledge inspiration from problem setters such as Eric Jannersten, Jan Wohlin, and Britain's own Hugh Kelsey. The non-prize problems were either deals from real life, or deals with simpler themes which more viewers could be expected to solve. For these, I wanted to provide the solutions for those who wished to check their answer at once.

The principal challenge was the very restricted space of the teletext television screen (40 characters in width and 15 lines deep). There was no space for bidding diagrams or explanatory detail. Both the problems and the solutions had to be presented briefly. This makes them ideal for the bridge player who wants a problem-solving challenge without having to wade through auctions, lengthy descriptions of the play or complex analysis.

I was contacted by the editor of Britain's oldest and leading bridge magazine, called simply *BRIDGE Magazine*, to present the problems in the magazine, this time with one prize problem and one non-prize problem each month. The series began in January 1990 and, as I write, is still going strong almost twenty years later. This book presents a selection of problems that appeared in *BRIDGE Magazine* during the early years. I am grateful to the current Editor, Mark Horton, for his cooperation in this venture.

If you are a knowledgeable solver who believes you recognize some of the prize problems, please remember they first appeared some twenty years ago. So if you think you have seen them before, perhaps my original composition was the source!

Patrick Jourdain, Cardiff

Prize PROBLEM

How should West play 5♣ on a low diamond lead?

♠ A 10 4 3
♥ K 6 3
♦ 6
♣ K Q 9 7 5



♠ K Q 2
♥ 8 7 4
♦ A 9
♣ A J 8 3 2

Non-prize PROBLEM

How should West play 4♥? North opened 1♠ but cashes the ♣A and then switches to a low diamond.

♠ —
♥ K Q 9 8 7 3
♦ 8 3
♣ K Q 10 5 2



♠ K 7 4 3
♥ J 10
♦ A 7 2
♣ J 9 4 3

Prize PROBLEM

How should West play 5♣ on a low diamond lead?

♠ A 10 4 3

♥ K 6 3

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♠ K Q 2

♥ 8 7 4

♦ A 9

♣ A J 8 3 2

You can make sure of the contract. Win the ♦A, draw trumps, ruff the second diamond and play king, queen and another spade. Then, if South follows small, finesse the ten! If North wins, he is endplayed. If the ♠10 wins you have eleven tricks. If South shows out on the third spade, go up with the ace and exit with a spade, throwing a heart from table. North is endplayed.

Non-prize PROBLEM

How should West play 4♥? North opened 1♠ but cashes the ♣A and then switches to a low diamond.

♠ —

♥ K Q 9 8 7 3

♦ 8 3

♣ K Q 10 5 2



♠ K 7 4 3

♥ J 10

♦ A 7 2

♣ J 9 4 3

Win the diamond lead at once and play the ♠K, discarding a diamond from hand if South does not cover. This Scissors Coup avoids the danger that North has led the singleton ♣A, and is planning to win the first trump and put South on lead with a second diamond in order to get a club ruff.

Prize PROBLEM

How should West play 3NT on a spade lead?

♠ A Q 4

♥ A J 10

♦ A K 6 2

♣ K J 4



♠ 8 7 3

♥ 9 4 3

♦ 9 5

♣ A 10 9 8 2

Non-prize PROBLEM

How should West play 4♠ on a trump lead from North?

♠ A J 10 8 7

♥ A J 10 3

♦ A

♣ K J 2



♠ K Q 6

♥ Q 2

♦ 9 8 6 3 2

♣ 8 7 4

Prize PROBLEM

How should West play 3NT on a spade lead?

♠ A Q 4
♥ A J 10
♦ A K 6 2
♣ K J 4



♠ 8 7 3
♥ 9 4 3
♦ 9 5
♣ A 10 9 8 2

Win the spade, play the ♣K and (unless South shows out) a low club from both hands! If the defense wins the second club you can later overtake the ♣J to ensure nine tricks. If, on the second club, dummy's eight wins but either defender still has Qx, then take a heart finesse, and another later using the ♣A as your entry. Note that running the ♣J fails when South, with ♣Qxxx, holds up.

Non-prize PROBLEM

How should West play 4♠ on a trump lead from North?

♠ A J 10 8 7
♥ A J 10 3
♦ A
♣ K J 2



♠ K Q 6
♥ Q 2
♦ 9 8 6 3 2
♣ 8 7 4

Win the lead in dummy and lead the ♥2 to the ten (or jack). If this finesse wins, try to ruff two hearts in dummy -- the third round with the six, then back to the ♦A for a ruff with the last trump honor.

If the heart finesse loses you still have the ♥Q and the high trump as entries to take two club finesses.

Prize PROBLEM

West plays 4♠ after South has overcalled 1♥. North leads a heart and ruffs the third round, dummy throwing a diamond. West wins the trump switch and draws a second round on which South throws a heart. What now?

♠ A K Q J
♥ 8 7 3 2
♦ 5 4 2
♣ A 6



♠ 4 3 2
♥ J 6
♦ A K J 6
♣ K Q 4 3

Non-prize PROBLEM

South preempts in diamonds and West is pushed to 4NT. North doubles and leads a diamond. How should West play?

♠ Q 8 7 4
♥ 8
♦ A Q 6
♣ J 10 9 6 2



♠ A 9 3
♥ K 9 7 5
♦ 9
♣ A K 8 7 4

Prize PROBLEM

West plays 4♠ after South has overcalled 1♥. North leads a heart and ruffs the third round, dummy throwing a diamond. West wins the trump switch and draws a second round on which South throws a heart. What now?

♠ A K Q J
♥ 8 7 3 2
♦ 5 4 2
♣ A 6



♠ 4 3 2
♥ J 6
♦ A K J 6
♣ K Q 4 3

Cash the three top clubs, throwing a diamond from hand. Then cash one top diamond and finish drawing trumps, throwing dummy's last club. South should be squeezed in the red suits. South will throw a diamond on the third trump. If he throws a club on the last trump then his shape was 1-5-3-4 and you will have to guess who to play for the diamond queen.

Non-prize PROBLEM

South preempts in diamonds and West is pushed to 4NT. North doubles and leads a diamond. How should West play?

♠ Q 8 7 4
♥ 8
♦ A Q 6
♣ J 10 9 6 2



♠ A 9 3
♥ K 9 7 5
♦ 9
♣ A K 8 7 4

In the 1984 Cavendish the winner, Larry Cohen of the USA, took the intra-finesse in spades. He won the diamond, crossed to dummy with a club and led a spade to the seven and jack. Later he led the ♠Q from hand to pin South's now bare ♠10. He finished by leading a heart toward the king. North held:

♠ K J 5 2 ♥ A Q 10 6 2 ♦ 5 2 ♣ Q 5

CAN YOU MAKE THIS HAND?

♠ A 10 4 3
♥ K 6 3
♦ 6
♣ K Q 9 7 5



♠ K Q 2
♥ 8 7 4
♦ A 9
♣ A J 8 3 2

North leads low a diamond against 5♣. How can West make sure of the contract? (See p.6 for the solution.)

In 1985, Patrick Jourdain was commissioned by Britain's TV Channel 4 to provide bridge problems as part of its Teletext service. The problems caught the eye of the editor of *BRIDGE Magazine*, and eventually formed the basis for the popular 'Problem Corner' feature, which began in 1990 and still appears in the magazine every month.

It is from these same problems that the contents of this book have been selected. A combination of real-life deals and constructed themes, they will provide a stimulating challenge to any solver.



PATRICK JOURDAIN (Cardiff, Wales) is the bridge correspondent of the *Daily Telegraph*. For many years he has served as president of the International Bridge Press Association.

