



POLISH BRIDGE MAGAZINE „BRYDŹ” BIDDING POLL

PROBLEMS FROM “Brydź” 12/2008

DISCUSSION “Brydź” 3/2009

Some problems of this set were discussed on pl.rec.gry.brydz, some are from Polish tournaments.

1. IMPs, both vulnerable.

♠85 ♥K853 ♦4 ♣AQ8753

W	N	E	S
pass	pass	3♦	pass
pass	dbl.	pass	?

Game or partscore? Hearts, or much longer clubs?

We can assume that not all players will re-open with N hand (passed hand, vulnerable). This is the reason why the game must not be bid:

Martens: 3♥. I do not like to penalize partner when he actively re-opens.

Czyżowicz: 3♥. Partner must have dream hand to make the game reasonable shot. He passed, so he can even as little as 8 PC.

Not everybody decided for the heart contract:

Babsch: 4♣. I cannot see the reason not to bid my longest suit. Of course, heart contract sometimes will be better.

Did partner promise 4+ hearts? Re-opening with passed hand, usually so:

Saurer: 4♥. Partner should have 4 hearts, sometimes even 5. I am tempted to bid a game with my 6-4 shape. If partner has something like ♠Kxxxx ♥AQxx ♦x ♣Wxx I would regret 3♦ bid.

Should partner not re-open with 4-3-1-5 shape?

If we decide to bid the game, we can scientifically check if he has four cards in hearts:

Jassem: 4♦. Two places to play. After 4♠ I drive in 5♣.

Call	Experts	Readers(%%)	Awards
4♥	6	15	100
3♥	5	51	100
4♦	5	0	90
4♣	2	23	50
5♣	2	0	50

2. IMPs, WE vulnerable.

♠4 ♥A73 ♦AKJ932 ♣653

W	N	E	S
pass	1♥	2♠	3♦
pass	3♥	pass	?

Jagniewski: 4♠. Simple. Model hand for the Splinter bid. Partner has shown six cards in hearts (otherwise he could bid 3NT or 3♠. 4♥ would be underbid. We should not have problems with making the contract on 5 level or higher.

Jassem: 4♠. We were lucky to be left with all that bidding space...

Partner has shown six cards in hearts, so it seems that we can start a fast lane. But majority takes the descriptive way:

Cannell: 3♠. Too much for straightforward 4♥. I make one more move before bidding 4♥ in next round.

Klukowski: 3♠. And after 3NT, I will bid 4♥.

If partner bids 3NT, it will be ok. – 4♥ is ideal – shows good diamond suit, short spades, heart fit... But if he has no spade stopper and will bid 4♣, 4♦, or – at worst case – 4♥? 4NT is not the option – we can have no club stopper.

This is a problem from Polish first division matches:

		N		
		♠ 107		
		♥ KQJ1052		
		♦ Q5		
		♣ AJ2		
W			E	
♠ AQ95			♠ KJ8632	
♥ 98			♥ 64	
♦ 10874			♦ 6	
♣ 1097			♣ KD84	
		S		
		♠ 4		
		♥ A73		
		♦ AKJ932		
		♣ 653		

Call	Experts	Readers(%%)	Awards
3♠	17	70	100
4♠	2	4	40
4♦	1	2	20

3. IMPs, love all.

♠K108 ♥4 ♦AKJ32 ♣AQ93

W	N	E	S
		2♥ ¹⁾	dbl.
4♥	4♠	pass	?
¹⁾ weak two			

To go, or not to go... Hand is encouraging, but...

Babsch: pass. Partner has bid under pressure and I would not like to penalize him.

Cannell: pass. Partner, I hope you will make it.

Of course, ♠AQxxx and diamond queen make the slam sensible, but partner can have also something like ♠Dxxxx ♥xxx ♦x ♣Kxx:

Henclik: pass. Partner could bid 4♠ with many kinds of hands, and I even haven't four spades. Why to overbid?

Sometimes aggressive bidding in partner's position can solve the next round problems:

Carruthers: pass. I like my partners to be aggressive opposite my takeout doubles (as I am opposite theirs), to take the pressure off if it comes back to me pass-pass. So, I need quite a bit more than a minimum to go on. Although I have more than a minimum here, I have only 3 trumps and a 5-loser hand – not enough to advance further.

Let's look at those who go forward:

Saurer: 5♥. Slam try in spades. Slightly stretched, but I have a good side suit and controls in all suits.

Kwiecień: 5♥. It would be better to have one more spade.

Reader Mr Igor Krawczenko: 4NT. I hope it is Blackwood.

In fact, is 4NT really Blackwood? If it is, with very strong hand with minors, without spade fit, one must bid 4NT directly after weak two opening.

I hope the pool will clear what the double of 4♥ would be. But there were no solution. I think, that in contemporary style it shows balanced hand with about 10 PC, and is not the classic responsive double (promising four cards in spades).

This problem, in comparison with the first of this set, illustrates expert's approach to the game and slam bidding – game can be bid more freely than the slam, which should be bid in a much more deliberate way.

This is also a problem from Polish first division matches:

	N		
	♠ QJ72		
	♥ 32		
	♦ 6		
	♣ K107652		
W		E	
♠ A653		♠ 94	
♥ KJ98		♥ AQ10765	
♦ 1095		♦ Q874	
♣ 84		♣ J	
	S		
	♠ K108		
	♥ 4		
	♦ AKJ32		
	♣ AQ93		

Call	Experts	Readers(%%)	Awards
pass	13	23	100
5♥	4	9	40
4NT	3	43	40

4.Matchpoints. WE vulnerable.

♠J ♥76 ♦Q10985 ♣K8653

W	N	E	S
1♦	1♥	1♠	pass
2♠	dbl.	3♠	4♣
4♠	pass	pass	?

This is a problem of tactics as well as the hand valuation:

Babsch: pass. We cannot make 5♣, and probably they cannot make 4♠ also. Sacrificing rarely pays well at matchpoints.

It seems that we could make 4♣. Can they make 4♠? Analysis according to the Total Number of Tricks shows that probably one side can make a four level contracts (we have 9 clubs, they have 9-10 spades). So may be the double is justified?

Cannell: double. At matchpoints +200 is a magic number. Risky, but playing matchpoints is kind of gambling.

Kwiecień: double. I have a diamonds and spades are 3-1. I lead trump and await the best.

Martens: double. And I lead trump. Partner should have 3-6-1-3 and 13-15 PC. Will we beat it? It is quite different story...

The majority choice was pass:

Fischer: pas. I think I have already told my story. In my opinion 4♣ was nearer to overbid than to underbid.

There is also quite different approach:

Klukowski: 5♣. When in doubt, always bid higher.

Call	Experts	Readers(%%)	Awards
pass	14	51	100
double	4	19	50
5♣	2	21	40

5.IMPs. Both vulnerable.

♠K102 ♥A3 ♦KQJ75 ♣KQJ

W	N	E	S
		1♠	dbl.
pass	2♥	3♠	?

Difficult... We started with the double, but now it is so high... Each sensible bid seems risky:

Martens: 4♦. I must guess. Pass could be a winner. I do not even think about 3NT. Double will lead us to 4♥, what is not I am dreaming about. I hope that partner's hand is ♠x ♥Kxxxx ♦10xx ♣xxxx.

4♦ will probably make, but with many hands where we can make it, partner will bid game:

Czyżowicz: pass. 3♠ probably will not be more than one down, and sometimes will make; 3NT has no chance, even if West has spade void. 4♦ can be lucky, but usually, when we could make it, partner will bid the game, eg. with ♠x ♥Jxxxx ♦Axxx ♣xxx.

Other choices:

Carruthers: 3NT. Presumably, I did not bid 1NT last time because I was too strong – I need to tell partner now that that is what I have done – 3NT tells him.

Cannell: double. Cards. I cannot determine the right direction. Do something intelligent, partner...

In my opinion double is not the choice – we have only two hearts. Perhaps this was the reason why not obvious pass was the majority choice:

Babsch: pass. Probably they will not make it. If I double, partner will bid, so I choose the silent way.

Jassem: pass. I do not double, because I need three controls to make a game, and after negative 2♥ it is impossible.

Call	Experts	Readers(%%)	Awards
pass	12	21	100
double	4	51	60
4♦	3	8	50
3NT	1	17	20

6. IMPs. NS vulnerable, WE not.

♠AD54 ♥AD8 ♦1072 ♣K64

W	N	E	S
1♦	pass	pass	dbl.
1♠	3♣	pass	?

The question is: if the opponents bid two suits, we ask for the stopper, or show it?

Foreign experts have shown it:

Saurer: 3♠. Spade stopper and club fit.

Carruthers: 3♠. I cannot resist – a diamond stopper should allow us to make 3NT (I hope). It is a principle of sound bidding that when the opponents have bid 2 suits, you cue bid the suit in which you have values. If this gets us to 3NT from the wrong side, then perhaps we need to reassess our methods when both suits are bid by our LHO.

Polish experts usually asked:

Kwiecień: 3♦. Interrogative... Do we play en-passant?

Jassem: 3♦. Asks for the stopper. If partner stops the diamonds, he will bid 3♠ and we will play from the right hand.

The poll confirmed, that standard Polish school is to ask for the stopper even if two suit were bid by the opponents.

This was one of the boards from Polish first division:

	N		
	♠ J10		
	♥ J43		
	♦ 43		
	♣ AQJ832		
W		E	
♠ K763		♠ 982	
♥ K52		♥ 10976	
♦ AK9865		♦ QJ	
♣ -		♣ 10975	
	S		
	♠ AQ54		
	♥ AQ8		
	♦ 1072		
	♣ K64		

Call	Experts	Readers(%%)	Awards
3♦	12	43	100
3♠	6	2	70
pass	1	25	20

7. IMPs. WE vulnerable.

♠A10 ♥108764 ♦AK109 ♣109

W	N	E	S
			1♥
1♠	2♣¹⁾	pass	pass
2♠	dbl.	pass	?

¹⁾not forcing

What does partner have? Is his double penalty orientated, or take out?

Reader Mr Adamski: pass. We have more points than they have, and no suit fitted. With both minors partner would bid negative double at the first round. Sitting behind spades his double should be penalty orientated.

Is double penalty orientated? In modern style it should be something similar to “maximum overcall double” – maximum of possible strength with no good bid available. The experts shared such approach:

Cannell: 3♣. I do not bid 3♦ - partner did not make the negative double, so he should not be 5-4 in minors.

Carruthers: 2NT. This is one of those bids where I don't care how he interprets it. If he take me for 4-2 in the minors, great; if he takes me for a spade stopper, great (in a perfect world, he'd have Jxx in spades). I love these bids – partner cannot go wrong!

Pas is tempting with our quick tricks and probable heart shortness:

Babsch: pass. If partner has heart singleton, we should collect 500, rarely 200. With 6♣4♦ partner should bid 2NT instead of double.

Reader Mr Adam Pawłowski: pass. I have quick tricks and ruffing chances. I hope partner will not lead the heart king if he has it.

The hand was played in Polish first division matches:

	N		
	♠ K73		
	♥ K9		
	♦ 82		
	♣ A76532		
W		E	
♠ QJ98542		♠ 6	
♥ AJ		♥ Q532	
♦ J5		♦ Q7643	
♣ KJ		♣ Q84	
	S		
	♠ A10		
	♥ 108764		
	♦ AK109		
	♣ 109		

Call	Experts	Readers(%%)	Awards
3♣	7	17	100
2NT	7	26	100
pass	6	32	90

8.Matchpoints, both vulnerable.

♠64 ♥QJ1042 ♦AQ32 ♣KQ

W	N	E	S
			1♥
dbl.	2♥ ¹⁾	2NT	pass...
¹⁾ can be very weak			

What is your lead?

This is a problem:

Martens: ♥D. What do you want to suggest? Talented player can visualize singleton A or K in dummy and will lead a small heart... I lack this kind of talent...

I understand it, but...

Jagniewski: ♥4. It is very clever... We fitted the suit, and I have QJ10 in it. So heart lead is obvious. The only question is: which card... Queen is right when the suit is divided 3-2, not right when hearts are 4-1 with singleton honor and partner has not the heart 9. Low heart is not correct if hearts are 3-2 and partner has not the honor, and not the nine... So small seems to be mathematically correct.

Kwiecień: ♥4. Only in a problem...

Really it is easier to declare the small heart lead then to make it at the table:

Carruthers: ♥Q. It's a trick question, right? Don't tell me I need to lead 4th best because partner raised on Kx or something similar. Sorry, I am a simple player, not a hero. It is more likely he raised on 8-6-3 and I'll give them a cheap trick with the 9 by leading the 4. And anyone who leads something other than a heart is either a liar or a fool or a cowboy or is guessing for the panel.

Lead	Experts	Readers(%%)	Awards
♥D	14	85	100
♥4	6	8	60

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